



## **DOG BITE PREVENTION TIPS**

The City of Warman Bylaw Department has a few tips on how to prevent a dog bite.

### **Recognize the warnings signs**

When most dogs bite they do so out of fear. It's important to recognize the warning signs dogs display when they are fearful and feeling anxious

- Wide eyes
- Ears lowered
- Tail tucked
- Avoiding eye contact

Although you can never guarantee that a dog won't bite, there are several ways you can significantly reduce the risk. Below are a few tips to help prevent dog bites from happening:

- Always ask the owner before approaching the dog. If the owner says it is okay, first allow the dog to sniff a closed hand. Then pet the dog's shoulders or chest and take care to avoid petting the dog on the top of the head.
- Avoid approaching a dog with no owner present. If a loose dog comes you, refrain from running or screaming. Instead, avoid eye contact with the dog and stand very still (like a tree), until the animal moves away. Once the dog loses interest, slowly back away.
- Never try to outrun a dog. If a dog does attack, "feed" the dog a jacket, bag, bicycle—or anything for the dog to grab or anything you can put between yourself and the dog.
- Never approach a barking, growling or scared dog.
- Never put your hand in the way of dogs who are fighting.
- Do not approach, touch or play with any dog who is sleeping, eating, chewing on a toy/bone, or caring for puppies. Animals are more likely to bite if they're startled, frightened or caring for young.
- Avoid petting dogs who are behind a fence or in a car. Dogs often protect their home or personal space.
- Make sure children are cautious around new dogs.
- Have open conversations with your child about dog bites and the appropriate way to behave around dogs.
- If a child falls down or is knocked to the ground by a dog, they should curl up in a ball with his knees tucked into the stomach, and fingers interlocked behind the neck to protect the neck and ears. If a child remains still and quiet, the dog will most likely sniff and then go away.
- Don't tease dogs (pull tails/ears/fur, poke, stare in the face, yell, take away toys, etc.).

From the City of Warman Bylaw and Animal Control, please stay safe out there!