

Dog Bite Prevention

Did you know that dog bites cause nearly 800,000 injuries requiring immediate medical care in the United States each year? If your dog bites someone, you can be held legally liable. However, there are steps you can take to reduce or prevent dog bites including the following.

1. Carefully consider dog breeds prior to selecting a pet.
2. Spay or neuter the animal as this often decreases the aggressive tendencies of dogs.
3. Seek a veterinarian's advice quickly if your dog becomes aggressive.
4. Socialize your dog from an early age to encourage appropriate behavior.
5. Never leave dogs alone with small children.
6. Avoid aggressive games with puppies and dogs such as tug of war.
7. Do not place your dogs in situations where he or she can be teased or feel threatened.
8. Train your dog to obey commands.

You may face liability claims if your dog gets out into the road and causes or contributes to an auto accident. Homeowners can be sued for violation of leash ordinances by allowing their dog to "run at large".