

REPORT ALL DOG
BITES TO YOUR
LOCAL HEALTH
DEPARTMENT



Once a person experiences rabies symptoms, it is too late for treatment to be effective.

Reporting dog bites also enables local authorities the opportunity to identify potentially dangerous dogs.

When a dog is deemed potentially dangerous, the owner is required to purchase a special license, install fencing and post warning signs on his or her property.

Residents should also report stray or unleashed dogs to the local police or health department.

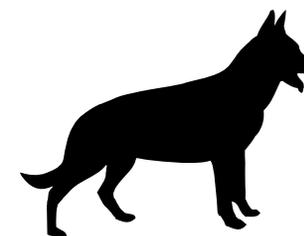
COUNTY OF BERGEN

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Department of Health Services
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PREVENTING
DOG
BITES



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WHY REPORT DOG BITES?

Reporting dog bites to your local health department is essential for several reasons, including the prevention of rabies.

The health officer will confirm whether or not the dog has been properly immunized.

The dog must be quarantined and if proven rabid, the bite victim will need to undergo treatment to prevent the spread of the disease.



Dogs are such wonderful pets that many have earned a place in the family album. And while most of the nation's 55 million dogs are truly man's best friends, a dog bite can result in serious bodily harm and even death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, between 1995 and 1996, at least 25 people died of injuries from dog bites. Children under 12 were the victims in 80 percent of those deaths.

In 1994, an estimated 4.7 million people were bitten by dogs, 800,000 of whom sought medical attention.

The Bergen County Department of Health Services urges all residents, including pet owners, to prevent dog bites.

HOW CAN DOG BITES BE PREVENTED?

Dog owners can help reduce the number of dog bites, which are preventable injuries, by obeying local ordinances concerning dog licenses, immunization and leash laws.

GIVE YOUR PET LOTS OF PRAISE FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR



A dog is a loyal, loving companion in the right hands. But in the wrong hands, a dog can be a dangerous animal.

- Never tease your dog or allow others to do so.
- Don't disturb a dog at rest.
- Leave an animal alone while it is eating or chewing on a bone.

Dogs don't understand the concept of punishment for bad behavior, but they love praise for doing things right.

Training is an important aspect of controlling your dog. Formal training is recommended, especially for puppies, who are quick learners. But even without formal training, teaching a dog to "sit" or "stay" can help an owner stay in control.

WHEN A DOG ATTACKS

Being approached by a strange dog requires quick thinking.

An angry dog will bark and look directly at you. A fearful dog has its tail between its legs or its ears back, but this is not an invitation for you to be friendly. Extending your hand may provoke the dog to bite.

The most important thing is to remain calm. Don't yell, move or make eye contact. Stand still until the dog leaves, or back away slowly until you're out of sight.

If the dog attacks, curl up into a ball, using the hands to protect the head, neck and face.



Children should always be supervised in the presence of animals. They should be taught never to pet a dog without asking permission first.