

# HOW WE CAN HELP CHILDREN AVOID BITES

Proactively teaching your children how to behave around dogs can help prevent bites. It is up to us to teach our kids how to safely interact with dogs.

Both children & dogs need guidance from us on how to behave appropriately around each other. This behavior doesn't come naturally



Research shows that many bites occur with dogs that have been recently rehomed. Rehomed dogs may be under enormous stress which can make some dogs react in a way people may not be prepared for.



- Give dogs time
- Give dogs space
- Give dogs their own place to retreat to
- Respect their need to be alone
- Do not run around dogs
- Do not scream or make loud noises

## CHILDREN VISITING OTHER CHILDREN'S HOUSES

If your child is visiting another home, ask if they have a dog and what the family's rules are with their dog. Don't be afraid to ask questions.



EVERY dog needs an area which is off limits to children. This is a place where they can relax without being disturbed. Often, this is a kennel. Teach all children that dogs are NOT to be approached when on their bed or their crate.



Teach your kid that they are allowed to say "No thank you" when they are invited to pet a dog they don't know if they are uncomfortable or if the dog appears uncomfortable.

## WHAT TO AVOID



Don't lift dogs off the ground, hug or cling to them



Don't approach dogs who have food or treats



Don't approach a dog who is playing with toys or chews



If dogs are playing together, leave them alone

Avoid crowding, cornering or not giving dogs a chance to escape

## WHAT TO DO

Teach your child to pet a dog under their chin, on their back or near their tail

Teach your child to stand still and let the dog approach them

Soft, quiet voices are much less spooky to a dog

