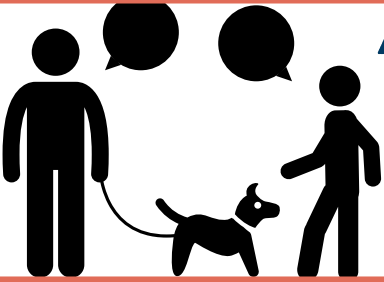


DOG BITE PREVENTION

TOP TIPS FOR THE PUBLIC

ASK PERMISSION

When meeting a new dog don't just assume he/she enjoys meeting new people. Ask first before approaching.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Stay away from dogs who are demonstrating warning or fearful body language.



PET POLITELY

Don't lean over or reach a hand out to a unfamiliar dog. Turn to your side and allow the dog to approach you. No approach means no pets!



LET SLEEPING & EATING DOGS LIE

Don't touch a dog that is eating, sleeping, or playing with a toy. Let them be!



COMMON FEAR SIGNALS IN DOGS

Dogs communicate primarily with body language. It is important to understand basic signals for distress, fear, and warnings to keep everyone safe. Not all dogs will show all of these signals and they can be very quick.

Raised Hackles Stiff Posture



Defensive: Showing Teeth Tail Tuck



Cautious: Ears Back Tail Low



Whale Eye



Look Away Yawn



Hunched Posture Tail Tucked Paw Lift



Tongue Flick



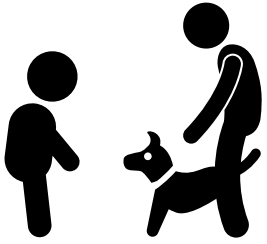
Images courtesy of
Pet Professional Guild

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Be aware!** Know your surroundings and avoid phone distractions when walking.
- **Respect boundaries.** Do not lean over fences or walk on another's property.
- **Ask the dog for permission too!** Dogs should have the right to choose if they want to interact or be touched. Let them have that choice!
- **Not all dogs are social.** Some dogs may require distance to feel comfortable.
- **Call a professional!** When faced with an unknown dog, call 911 for assistance rather than trying to catch or contain the animal on your own.

DOG BITE PREVENTION

TOP TIPS FOR DOG OWNERS



SUPERVISE

Dogs should always be supervised when interacting with strangers, children, and other animals.



CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Provide a quiet retreat for your dog in the home. Allow and encourage your dog to use this space when overwhelmed.



KEEP THEM CLOSE

Dogs should always be leashed and close to your side when off your property. Avoid long, retractable leashes.



DON'T PUNISH A GROWL

Punishing a growl is like taking the battery out of a smoke alarm. Respect the warning if a dog gives one and work on diffusing the situation.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

- **Seek help early on.** If your dog is demonstrating concerning behavior don't wait to address it. Speak to your vet to rule out any medical considerations or causes.
- **Call a professional.** Certified dog trainers and behavioral consultants have specific knowledge and skills to solve behavioral issues. Use their expertise!
- **Muzzle train.** Muzzle training at home helps a dog feel comfortable in a muzzle in stressful situations and prevents dogs from making bad choices.
- **Spay/Neuter.** Spaying or neutering promotes better overall health and can reduce the likelihood of wandering or aggression.
- **Need help?** Give us a call at Animal Services, we are happy to provide information on trainers and behavioral professionals in the area.



DuPage County

ANIMAL SERVICES

Saving Animals. Serving People.

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