



Global Children's Fund

Dog Safety

Please enjoy this parent safety brochure, compliments of your child's school or child care facility. Keep in mind that this is but one small part of child safety, not intended to be complete safety education. Please visit us online at WWW.KEEPYOURCHILDSAFE.org, for a variety of free book downloads covering all

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Dogs can be such a wonderful pet for children. They are cute, adorable, and most often times, very friendly. But this beloved household pet is also responsible for around 4 million attacks each year in the United States. Most of these are on children.

Which types of dogs are the most vicious.....

The three most dangerous types of dogs are German Shepherds, Rottweilers, and Pitbulls. If you have any of these breeds, it is important you take extra precautions with your children. Conversely, some of the best dogs for kids are Golden Retrievers, Bloodhounds, and Labradors.

Safety rules for parents

Parents can help reduce the risks of an attack by following a few simple rules:

1. Spay or Neuter your dogs

In addition to controlling the pet populations, dogs who have NOT been spayed or neutered are three times as likely to bite as dogs which have been.

2. Constant supervision

Children should always be supervised around dogs. Every fatal dog attack is followed by the phrase "The dog has never bitten before" uttered from the parents or dog owner. Children should always be supervised around dogs to avoid the possibility of a fatal attack.

Teach children "play nice" rules

Teach children the following "play nice" rules for playing with dogs:

- ✓ Always let a dog see and sniff you before you pet it
- ✓ Only pet strange dogs if their owners are right there and tell you that it is OK
- ✓ Only play with dogs if there is an adult around
- ✓ Never go near dogs that are fighting

- ✓ Stay away from dogs that seem hurt or sick
- ✓ Don't put your face near a dog's face
- ✓ Never grab a dog around the neck
- ✓ Do not disturb a dog if they are eating, sleeping, or caring for puppies
- ✓ Don't tease a dog with food
- ✓ Treat dogs how you would want to be treated! If someone jumped on your back without warning, you wouldn't like it. If someone pulled on your hair, you wouldn't like that either. Think about how you would want to be treated if you were a dog.

If they are attacked

On occasion, children still may be attacked by a dog despite these precautions. However, there are ways to minimize the damage done during an attack, and more importantly, ensure that it does not become life threatening.

Teach kids:

- ✓ If a dog is barking at them and looks like it will attack, teach them to "be like a tree." Stand still with your hands at your side, and do not look the dog in the eyes. Don't turn and run. Just stand like a statue until the dog goes away.
- ✓ If a dog is attacking them, train them to tuck their chin to their chest to protect their neck, and curl up in the fetal position with their hands over their ears and their face tucked to their knees.
- ✓ If possible, teach children that they can 'feed' the dog a jacket, a backpack, or anything else by shedding their clothes or these items and letting the dog get them.

Teaching this Material

Our safety book *What Doggy's Do*, can be of great help in teaching children these skills, and is part of our children's books for child safety, available for free download online at our site.