



SAFE COMMUNITY COALITION

## Dog Safety

- Not every dog that wags its tail is friendly.
- Do not walk up to strange dogs, sleeping dogs or dogs eating food.
- Remember to approach a dog slowly and carefully.
- Never leave an infant or toddler alone with a dog.
- Never put your face near a dog's face. The dog may feel threatened and bite.
- Always ask permission from the owner of a dog before petting their dog.
- If a dog approaches you, stay still and don't be afraid.
- If you are threatened by a dog, stay calm. Avoid eye contact with the dog and back away slowly or just stand still.
- If a dog knocks you to the ground, curl up in a ball and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Don't run past a dog.
- Do not walk up to a mother dog when she is caring for puppies.
- Never go up to a dog that is in a yard behind a fence, tied to a leash, chained to a doghouse or in a parked car.



If you or your child is bitten by a dog, report it immediately:

- If in the city of Madison, call Animal Control (Madison Department of Public Health) at 255-2345.
- If outside of the city (in Dane County), call Dispatch at Dane County Sheriff's Office at 266-4948.



*Written by: Meriter Hospital, Dane County Sheriff's Office - K9 Unit, Madison Department of Public Health - Animal Control*

For more information, contact the Safe Community Coalition at (608) 256-6713, or email [scc@safecommunitycoalition.org](mailto:scc@safecommunitycoalition.org).