

# AVOID THE BITE DO IT RIGHT

According to the American Medical Veterinary Association (AMVA), most dog bites are preventable and yet more than **4.5 million** people are bitten each year. Children are the most common victims and are far more likely to be severely injured.

**Any dog can bite** – even yours.

## TIPS TO PREVENT DOG BITES

- 🦷 **Be a responsible dog owner.** Socialization with people and animals, training, and regular exercise build a foundation for dog bite prevention.  
**STAYING CONSISTENT IS KEY!**
- 🦷 **Always use a leash in public.**
- 🦷 **Never leave a child unattended with a dog.**  
Don't let a child ride or sit on a dog.
- 🦷 **Avoid risky situations.** Don't try petting a dog if the dog is sick or injured, growling or barking, a stray, on the other side of a fence, sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- 🦷 **Always ask permission** to approach, pet, or touch someone else's dog.
- 🦷 **Do not** run toward, bark at, or growl at a dog.
- 🦷 **Stay calm**, don't run, keep both hands at your sides, and avoid eye contact when approached by a strange dog.
- 🦷 **Educate** yourself and your family on dog behavior.



SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Learn more about preventing rabies at  
[dph.sc.gov/rabies](http://dph.sc.gov/rabies)

