



Prevent dog bites!

Stay safe around dogs with these tips from Marion County Animal Services.

1 Always ask the owner's permission before petting a strange dog. Then, ask the dog's permission by turning your hand palm-down and allowing the dog to sniff your closed hand.



If the owner isn't around, stay away from the dog.

2 Don't approach or touch a dog that's sleeping, eating, growling, barking, caring for puppies, fighting or that is chained or fenced in a yard.

Dogs can be startled if you wake them suddenly and can be highly protective of their food, property and puppies.



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3 If approached by a strange dog, don't run and scream. Stand still and silent (like a tree) and don't make eye contact. Dogs view direct eye contact as challenging and loud noises and sudden movement as scary or threatening.

When the dog loses interest, walk away slowly. Dogs are apt to join in on a game of chase if you try to run away.




4 If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball (face down) and lie still (like a rock). If a dog is attacking you, "feed" it your jacket, purse, bike or anything you can put between yourself and the dog.

If you are bitten, tell an adult right away and have them contact Marion County Animal Services immediately (352-671-8727).



For more information, contact Marion County Animal Services at 352-671-8700 or visit www.marioncountyfl.org/animal.htm.

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