



# Avoiding Dog Bites

## Tips for Avoiding Dog Bites

Many dog attacks can be avoided. Regrettably, most stories of dog attacks on people, especially children, focus on the injuries caused rather than what could and should be done to avoid such incidents in the future.

**BARK BUSTERS** have compiled this information to help you avoid dog bites:

- > Many people are bitten by dogs because they either misread the dog's intentions or react wrongly when approached by a dog.
- > Dogs have poor eyesight and have to come very close to someone to assess them. A dog sighting someone moving past its yard or garden will most likely bark and growl and may then run at the person. This is the dog's way of instilling fear in its foe.
- > The dog needs to get very close in order to scent who you are and this is where people usually get bitten. Instead of stopping and allowing the dog to sniff them, most people think the dog is trying to get close to bite them and either kick out at the dog or run. All this does is make the dog retaliate and attack.

### THE BEST WAY TO AVOID AN ATTACK BY A DOG THAT IS RUNNING AT YOU:

- > Stand totally still.
- > **Do not move a muscle** and try to pat the dog – even some dogs that appear friendly might not like being touched. Remember a wagging tail does not necessarily mean a friendly dog.
- > Wait for the dog to lose interest in you.
- > Keep your eye on the dog but do not stare into the dog's eyes. Dogs do not like to be stared at as they view it threatening.
- > Food can help. If you have some with you, drop it on the ground and remain still. **Do not hand feed the dog.**

### IF YOU ARE KNOCKED TO THE GROUND BY A DOG:

- > Do not attempt to get up – **lie totally still.**
- > Roll yourself up into a ball-type (foetal) position and stay as still as possible until the dog loses interest in you and it is safe for you to move.

*Bark Busters promotes **Dog Safety** for both adults and children. Understanding how we should conduct ourselves around dogs and reading a dog's body language can significantly reduce the risk of dog bites and attacks. Please call us anytime if you require assistance.*



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