Dog Bite Prevention

• Any dog can bite, even a dog you know.

• Prevention is KEY!
The Effects of Dog Bites

- Physical Trauma
  - Painful
  - Stressful
  - Disfiguring
  - Expensive
  - Fatal (rare)

- Psychological Trauma
  - Fear
  - Nightmares
In most cases, dog bites are not caused by “BAD” dogs so much as by irresponsible pet owners. Many people are attacked by dogs whose owners say “wouldn’t hurt a fly.”
Why Would a Dog Bite?

• Sick, hurt, in pain
• Teased
• Too excited
• Bothered while eating/sleeping
• Frustrated from being chained/tied up
• Trying to protect something
• Scared/startled
• Feels threatened
• To establish dominance
• Bred/trained to attack
Warning Signs

• Barking, growling, snapping, snarling
• They pull away when you try to pet them
• Stiff body, raised fur
• Bare teeth/curl lips
**TIP:**
A wagging tail is not necessarily a sign that a dog is friendly!
Who is at Risk of Being Attacked by an Animal?

- Animal Control Officers
- Cable TV
- **Mail/Letter Carriers**
- Law Enforcement
- Bicyclists
- Children
- Shelter Personnel
- Repair Personnel
- Delivery Persons
- Meter Readers
- Pedestrians
- Joggers, walkers, **YOU!**
Dog Bite Statistics

• 4.7 Million People are bitten by dogs each year

• Most Common Victim = Children 12 years old or younger

• Dog attacks send 334,000 people to the ER each year

• Dog bite victims account for up to 5% of all hospital ER visits
Dog Bite Statistics Cont...

• 800,000 bites a year are severe enough to require medical treatment

• 1-2 million dog bites go unreported each year
If You See a Strange Dog

- Do not try to pet the dog
- Do not stare at the dog
- Do not run
- Try not to scream or make a lot of noise
- Do not throw things at the dog
- Put something between you and the dog
If You See a Strange Dog Cont...

- Always face the dog
- If the dog approaches you, stay calm and stand still
- When the dog starts to leave, slowly back away
- Report loose dogs to Animal Control
When Approaching a House

• Beware of unfamiliar dogs
• Obey warning signs
• Be alert
• If you know there is a dog on the property, do something to attract the dog
  – Make noise or whistle
  – Rattle the gate
• Always carry something with you
  – Mail satchel
  – Halt
When Approaching a House Cont...

- Know when a dog means business
  - Barking, snarling, ears are erect, appears ready to attack
  - Do NOT approach it!
  - Send warning letters to the dog owner if not at home

- If you have a dog warning card on this address and if the mailbox is close to any open door (even garage doors) do not deliver the mail
If a Dog Attacks

- Stand still
- Do not turn your back or run away
- Let the animal bite your satchel
- Keep something between you and the dog
- If you are knocked down, curl into a ball and lie still. Hide your face and protect your ears and neck with your arms
- Play dead
- If a dog bites do not pull away (try to make it release its hold)
- Report attacks to Animal Control and your supervisor
More Tips

- Watch out for dogs
- Size up the situation
- Do not show fear
- Do not startle a dog
- NEVER assume a dog won’t bite
- Keep your eyes on the dog
- Stand your ground
Dog Repellant

- Should only be used on dogs that attack.
- Consists of cayenne pepper extract and inert gas (has a faint odor).
- Safe, effective, and humane (vet approved).

- Spray directly into eyes, nose, & mouth of attacking dog.
- Range is up to 10 feet.
- Leaves a yellow stain on the dog’s hair.
- Dog will react by putting tail between legs and retreating.
- Wears off in 10-15 minutes.
- Humans may experience discomfort to the eyes (last approx. 10 min.).
If You Are Bitten?

- Wash the wound with soap & water
- **Notify your supervisor**
- Get medical attention no matter how small the bite or scratch may be
- Report the bite to the local animal control authorities
- Montgomery Co. MD 301-279-8000
Important Information

• What does the dog look like?
• Where did you see the dog?
• Have you seen the dog before?
• Animal Control must quarantine the dog
• You may need treatment
For Assistance Please Call

Montgomery County MD
Animal Control Office
301-279-8000