

TIPS ON AVOIDING DOG BITES

Many dog attacks can be avoided. Unfortunately, most media 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 first place.

BARK BUSTERS has compiled the following information to help you avoid dog bites:

- Many people are bitten by dogs because they either misread the dog's intentions or react the wrong way when the dog approached them.
- Dogs have poor eyesight and, therefore, have to come very close to people to assess them. A dog seeing something moving past its yard will most likely bark and growl, which is its way of instilling fear in its perceived foe. Then it may run at the thing or person.
- The dog needs to get very close to the thing or person to scent what it is, and this is when people usually get bitten. Instead of stopping and allowing the dog to sniff them, many people think the dog is trying to get close to bite them. They might kick at the dog or run, which only makes 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 do not try to pet the dog. Even dogs that appear friendly might not like being touched.
- Wait for the dog to lose interest in you.
- Keep your eye on the dog, but do not stare. Dogs do not like to be stared at as they view it as 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 DOWN BY A DOG:

- Do not attempt to get up; lie totally still.
- Roll yourself up into a ball and stay there until the dog loses interest in you and it is safe for you to move.

Bark Busters...a better way to a better dog!

Alana & Marco are owners of a Bark Busters franchise. They are dog behaviour therapists and trainers that specialize in behaviour issues such as: barking, jumping, pulling on lead, separation anxiety and all types of aggression.

Check out their website at www.barkbusters.ca or contact them at 1-866-418-4584
email: am@barkbusters.ca

Bark Busters...a better way to a better dog!