

What to do if you are bitten

Tell an adult you know right away.

If you are bitten by a strange dog, remember:

- If it had a collar or tag.
- The type, size and colour of the animal.
- The direction the animal went.

Wash the wound with soap and water.

See the doctor at once.

Report the bite to Animal Management on 0800 105 890.

Important things to remember

Just as there are good ways and bad ways to behave with people, there are good and bad ways to behave with animals.

Always be kind and gentle with animals.

They have feelings too.

Brought to you by



Working with



Contractors working with the Whangarei and Kaipara District Councils providing Animal, Noise, By-Law and Parking Management.

How to avoid dog bites

For people under 12 years



Brought to you by



Working with



How to avoid dog bites

This is a dog. She is a fine dog who lives with a family that loves her and takes good care of her. She has never bitten anyone, but there are dogs that have bitten people. If someone was not nice to her, she might bite too.

Dogs bite people when they are afraid, or angry, or hurt.

Lets take a look at some things that might a make dog bite.



Dogs may feel scared

Would you be scared if a stranger suddenly came into your house? If you surprise Dogs by coming into their house or yard, and they don't know you, they may feel scared. If a dog is scared she may bite.

When you see a dog that you don't know, remember the dog doesn't know you either and may be afraid. Do not go into a yard to pet a dog you don't know. Do not try to pet a dog that is chained. Never reach through a car window or fence to pet a dog you do not know. If the owner of the dog is there, always ask first if you may pet the dog.

Dogs may feel left out

Do you sometimes feel left out? Dogs can feel left out too. When there is a new baby in the house or a new pet or car, a dog may feel like no one cares about her any more. When she doesn't get enough attention, she may feel angry and she may nip or bite.

A dog needs extra attention and love when there is a new baby or a new pet in the house.

Dogs may get too excited

Do you like to be teased or yelled at? When you tease, chase or yell at dogs, they may get too excited and then they may nip at you. Don't pull their ears or tail, either. You may be having fun, but the dog is being hurt.

When you play with a dog, always be kind and gentle.

Dogs may bite accidentally

If a dog gets into a dog fight, you might want to help her. But people can be bitten accidentally when they try to stop a dog fight. Never stick your hand into a fight. You may be bitten accidentally.

When dogs are fighting, find an adult to stop the fight.

Dogs may not want to share

Do you always want to share your food or toys? You might get angry if a person grabbed a toy or sandwich out of your hands. Sometimes dogs may not want to share their things either. A dog might not want to share her food, bones, balls, sticks and other toys.

Remember that dogs have their special things. Never grab anything from a dog.



Dogs may want to protect someone or something

Do you have special things that you want to protect? A dog has special things too. Some special things to a dog are her owner and her yard and house. If a dog wants to protect her things, and you come too close, she will growl at you.

Respect a dog's feelings about the special things it wants to protect.



How to tell if a dog is upset

The picture on the cover shows, a dog when she is angry. If a dog is barking, growling or snarling with her teeth showing, she is getting ready to bite. If her ears are laid back, or her legs are stiff and her tail is up, she is warning you. The hair on her back will also stand up.

If you continue to do what you are doing, she will get more angry and bite you.

Do's and Don'ts

If a dog is acting like she may bite, follow these rules:

- Do not stare the dog in the eyes.
- Do not turn your back and run away.
- Do slowly walk away sideways.
- Be firm. Say "No!" to the dog and act like you're the boss.
- If the dog is angry and jumps on you, stand very still until she ignores you.