

SAFETY AROUND DOGS

- Never hurt or tease a dog.
- Don't bother a dog that is sleeping or eating.
- Do not startle or move toward a dog that is protecting her puppies.
- Never take a toy or bone out of a dog's mouth.
- Don't encourage aggressiveness by playing tug-of-war.
- If an unfamiliar dog approaches you, stand motionless, stay calm and be assertive. Do not turn your back on the dog or run away from it.
- Always keep your face away from dogs.
- Avoid sudden movements, particularly around the dog's head.
- Teach children to pet, rather than hug a dog.
- Never leave children and pets unsupervised.
- If a dog gets over excited when children play, place the dog in a kennel or another room.

HOW TO GREET AN UNFAMILIAR DOG

- Ask the owner if the dog is friendly and if you have permission to pet the dog.
- Let the dog sniff you, but try to keep your hands away from its face.
- Pet the dog under its chin – this is less threatening than petting the top of its head.

HOW NOT TO GREET AN UNFAMILIAR DOG

- Never approach a dog that is without its owner, tied up or is in a vehicle.
- **Avoid:**
 - rushing up to a dog or approaching the dog head on
 - leaning over the dog
 - petting it on the head

WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING A DOG ATTACK?

- Give the dog something to bite like a purse, bag, backpack or jacket.
- Put a barrier between you and the dog such as a bike, table or tree.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground, lay face down and protect your head and ears.
- If you're chased while on a bike, get off the bike and keep it between you and the dog.

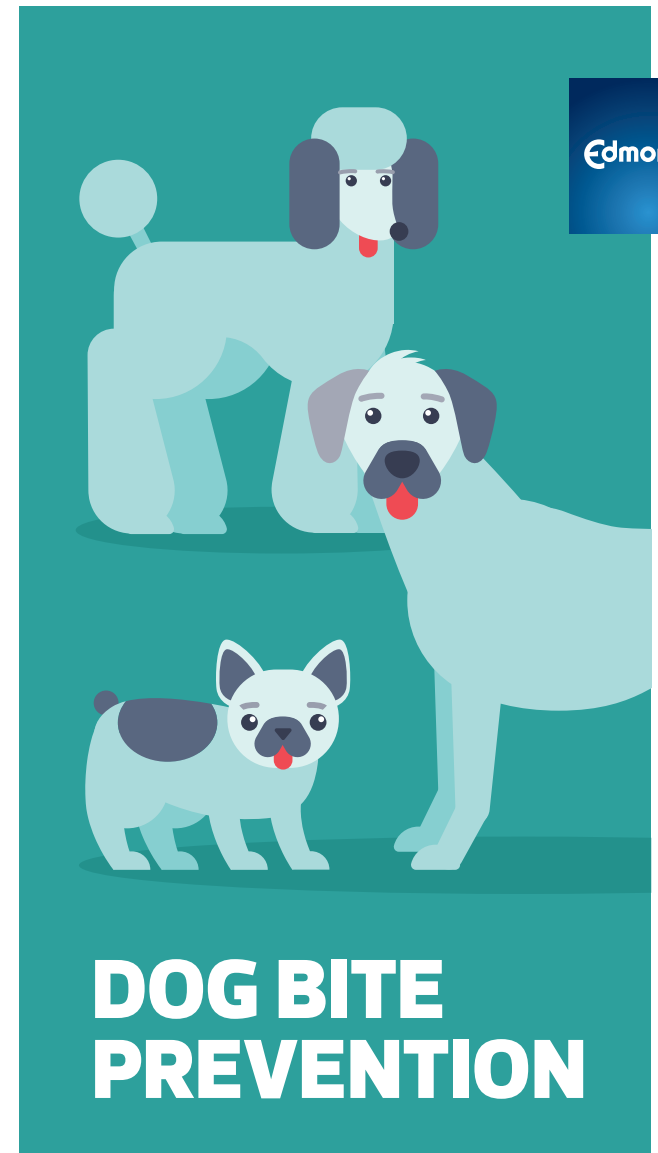
REPORT A DOG BITE

To report a dog attack or bite (major or minor), contact the Animal Care & Control Centre through 311 to report the bite. The following information is useful:

- date, time and place of the incident
- list of injuries sustained in the attack
- information about the dog (breed, size, colour, features) and its owner
- Information on any additional witnesses to the attack
- order of events

Every dog is unique and may show muted, different or additional warning signs than those presented in this brochure. Any interaction with a dog is done so at your own risk and the City does not take any responsibility or take on any liability for what occurs during that interaction. The City does not guarantee the completeness of any information on this brochure. This brochure may include inaccuracies or typographical errors and the information is provided without warranty or condition of any kind.

edmonton.ca/dogbite



ALL DOGS, REGARDLESS OF SIZE OR BREED, ARE CAPABLE OF BITING.

But through their behaviour, dogs almost always warn before they bite. Learning the warning signs and how to approach a dog safely will help prevent many of these bites from happening. Pet owners are responsible for controlling their dog at all times – even in off-leash dog parks.

KNOW THE SIGNS A DOG MAY BITE.

Nervous, Fearful or Stressed Dogs

A dog will almost always warn through body language that they are beginning to get anxious and uncomfortable and may bite. These early warning signs mean we should STOP what we're doing. These are commonly called 'calming signals'. Some early warning signs a dog is becoming stressed include:

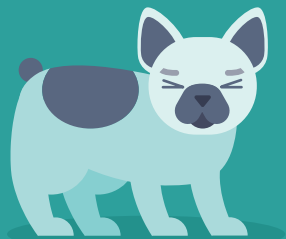
Yawning



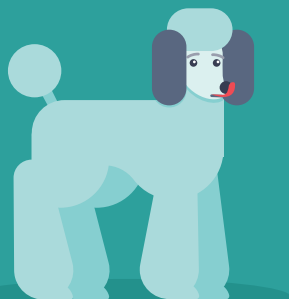
Panting



Blinking fast and/or looking away



Licking lips or nose



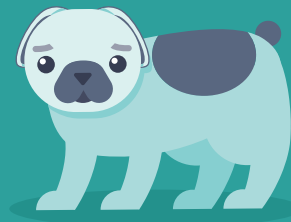
Whale eye



Low head and/or tail tucked between the legs



Ears held back or flat against the head



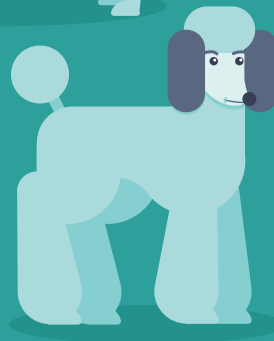
Alert Dogs

Alert dogs may be in a situation where they are interested in something but are undecided on how to react. Depending on the situation, they may decide to react in playfulness, fear or aggression. These signals could include:

Stiff tail and rigid way



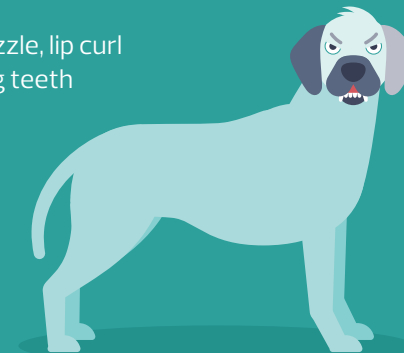
Tense mouth and/or hard stare



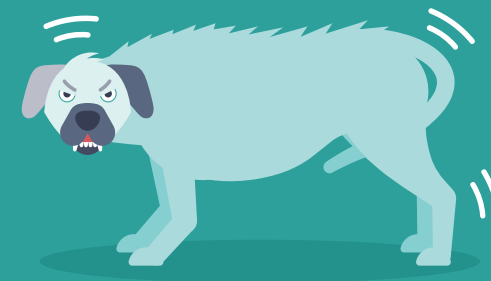
Aggressive Dogs

When dogs continue to feel anxious and their 'calming signals' have been ignored, they may send further signals to show they're anxious or even bite. They may be acting defensively or offensively. Either way, they are clearly saying "Back away from me" and may bite at any time. They may begin to growl, grow tense and show other aggression signs including:

Wrinkled muzzle, lip curl and/or baring teeth



Raised hackles



Relaxed Dogs

Dogs at their best typically have a loose body posture, open mouths, relaxed or forward ears, a neutral tail and soft eyes.