

3 Steps to Safety:

How to Approach A Strange Dog

The best way to avoid a dog bite is to learn about dog behavior and how they view the world. Most dog bites occur out of fear. The dog is afraid and untrusting of us. This is why it is very important to know how to approach a strange dog.

STEP 1

**Never run away from a dog.
Always stand your ground.**

Goal: Let the dog know through your body language that you are non-threatening or won't hurt the dog.

What to do: Stand still like a soldier. Be sure to have your hands at your side. Make no fast movement or loud noise. Quick movements or loud noises may scare the dog into biting you.

STEP 2

**Do *not* make direct eye contact
with the dog.**

Goal: Let the dog know through your body language that you do not want to fight or threaten the dog.

What to do: Always face the dog (never turn your back on a strange dog). Be sure *not* to lock eyes with the dog. Direct eye contact, in a dog's world is an invitation to a fight.

STEP 3

Leave the dog:

Let the dog know through your body language that you want to leave without being followed or chased.

What to do: Slowly back away, with your hands still at your side. Be sure not to turn your back on the dog. If you move very slowly and calmly while always facing the dog, he probably won't follow you.

JUST FOR KIDS

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ABOUT DOGS

Should you put your hand out and let the dog sniff you? (No. Stand like a soldier with no movement. If the dog has it's owner with it, always ask if the dog is friendly before you approach it.)

Never pet a strange dog even if it appears to be friendly.

What should you do even if you follow all the steps and the dog still bites you or knocks you down? (Play dead. Lie in a fetal position and avoid any struggle with the dog.)

How do you protect yourself if a dog is actively trying to bite you? (Protect yourself by putting any object between yourself and the dog. For example your bike, books, book bag etc.)

**What to do after you get bit by a dog?
(Immediately tell an adult, seek medical attention, and report the bite to the Animal Control Officer.)**

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