



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government

Department of Community Health and the Environment

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Nip Dog Bite Injuries in the Bud

National Dog Bite Prevention Week is May 20-26

St. Charles County, Missouri – Dogs may be “man’s best friend,” but even the cuddliest canine can bite if provoked. Nearly five million Americans are bitten by dogs each year, and 800,000 of those injuries are serious enough to require medical attention. On average, a dozen people die every year from dog bites. Contrary to popular belief, most people are bitten by their own dog or a dog they know.

During National Dog Bite Prevention Week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and the United States Postal Service work to educate Americans about dog bite prevention. This year’s observance runs from May 20 through May 26.

There are some simple steps you can take to prevent dog bite injuries.

- Consult a professional to learn which dog breed is best for your household.
- Spend time with a dog before acquiring it, and use caution when bringing a dog into the home of a young child.
- Spay or neuter your pet, as this usually reduces aggressive tendencies.
- Never leave infants or young children alone with any dog.
- Enroll yourself and your dog in a training class.
- Never tie your dog up outside for any length of time. Housebreaking your dog reduces the need to tether them. Tethering can increase aggression.
- Immediately seek professional advice if your dog develops aggressive or undesirable behaviors.

To help citizens in St. Charles County, the Division of Humane Services Pet Adoption Center offers educational materials to new and prospective dog owners. Contact the Pet Adoption Center at (636) 949-PETS (7387) for more information. In addition, the St. Charles County Parks Department holds basic dog obedience classes periodically throughout the year. To register, call (636) 949-7535 or visit www.stccparks.org for more details.

For more information about the St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment, call (636) 949-7400 or visit www.scchealth.org.

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