
Why do dog bites matter?

Dog bites have been reported to be one of the most easily preventable childhood injuries, and is one the most commonly reported injuries amongst children under 10 years old. Nationwide, over one billion dollars a year in homeowners liability claims and one hundred million dollars in hospital expenses are generated by preventable

DID YOU KNOW?

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. seeks medical attention for a dog bite related injury.

The Dog

Any dog can be an attacking animal, but some trends in Los Angeles County include the following, which help you know where to pay some extra attention:

- More than 50% of dog bites occur at home
- More than 33% are in a public place
- Most bites are associated with a known owner. (80+% of cases)
- Intact male dogs are the most likely dogs to bite (70+% of cases)

DID YOU KNOW?

Dog Registration fees for LA County are reduced for spayed or neutered dogs.

References

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention. (2019). CDC childhood injury report. Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/safechild/child_injury_data.html

County of Los Angeles Public Health. (n.d.). Most Dog Bites Preventable. Retrieved from <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/MostDogBitesPreventable.pdf>

County of Los Angeles Public Health (n.d) Dog Bite Prevention. Retrieved from <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/dogbiteprevention.htm>

Lawrence, D. (2001). Healthy People 2010 - With Annotations. Retrieved May 04, 2020, from <http://www.safetypolicy.org/hp2010/15-30.htm>

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (n.d.). HealthyPeople 2020 Topics and Objectives. Retrieved from <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives>

Important Contact Information

Animal Bite Reporting:

- 877-747-2243 (phone)
- 562-401-7112 (fax)

Medical Emergencies

- 911

Publication Information

- This information created by Gregory Marchese on behalf of Local Public Health.
- Information contained within is accurate at the of publishing of this guide.
- In the interest of the health and safety of all, please feel free to share or reproduce this guide as needed.



#MUZZLETHEBITE
dog bite prevention
strategies

Resource
Guide for the
Public

What Can I Do to Protect Myself and My Family?

Everyone:

- Never leave infants alone, even with small dogs
- Report all dog bites to LA County Public Health
- Know dogs that you frequent interact with and any triggers they have for aggression
-

Parents, Teach your children:

- To never approach an unknown dog
- To never run or scream around a dog
- Remain motionless around unfamiliar dogs if they approach
- Curl into a ball if attacked by a dog
- Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating or parenting other dogs.
-

Pet Owners:

- Spay/neuter your pet to limit aggression
- Properly socialize and train your pet
- Do not play aggressive games like tug of war with your dog.
- Consult a Veterinary professional if your dog exhibits problematic behaviors



Prevention", n.d.)

Above:

What is Los Angeles County Doing to Protect Me?

LA County has several functions in place to help limit and mitigate the risks of dog bites. The first of these is the Public Health departments tracking of dog bite injuries and aggressive animals. These mechanisms help collect vital data to track the spread of diseases like rabies and to locate animals that may potentially cause harm to residents through either bites or infection.

LA County also helps reduce pet registration fees for animals that are spayed or neutered. Moreover, if you qualify for General Relief, WIC, Healthy Family, MediCal, CalWorks, SSI or Golden State advantage programs, these services may be heavily discounted as well! These services help LA County Public Health do several things: 1) keep our animal population manageable (and therefore healthy and safe), 2) manage the aggressiveness of animals – research has shown that spayed and neutered animals are significantly less likely to bite or attack humans.

Above:
("Dog Bite Prevention", n.d.)



What is the U.S. Government Doing to Protect Me?

HealthyPeople 2020 initiatives have been created in order to help target Federal Public Health resources to best improve health for all. Some of the objectives created include (Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, n.d.):

- IID-21: Increase the number of states using electronic data from rabies surveillance programs to inform public health prevention programs
- IVP-1.3: Reduce emergency department (ED) visits for nonfatal injuries
- IVP-12 Reduce nonfatal unintentional injuries

Previously, the 2010 goals included goal 15-30, to "Reduce hospital emergency department visits for nonfatal dog bite injuries" (Lawrence, 2001) – which was split into the above goals to allow for better resource allocation and tracking of data.

In addition, the American Veterinary Medical Association works collaboratively with each cycle of HealthyPeople initiatives to develop a joint "HealthyPeople, HealthyPets" set of public health initiatives – all targeted for the healthy and safety of you, your loved ones, and your pets.

