

# DOG BITE PREVENTION: Long Version Instructor Guide

## Materials Needed

- **Power Point Presentation Long Version**
- One or two stuffed animal dogs and a leash. If the school allows it, you may also bring a handler with a calm, gentle dog.
- **Bookmarks**

## Presenter Information

- If you are a veterinarian or veterinary technician, wear scrubs or a lab coat
- The presentation takes 20-30 minutes

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## Presentation Instructions

### Introduction

**Slide 1:** Program name/logo. At this slide, introduce yourself and tell the students that you are there to teach them about how to be safe around dogs. Being safe around dogs is important because 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs every year. Most people bitten by dogs are kids. Most kids know the dog that bites them. Most bites occur on the face.

### Lesson One: Basic dog body language

**Slide 2:** Let's learn how dogs communicate- prompt that the first lesson is dog body language

**Slide 3:** Explains why it is important to understand dog body language

**Slides 4-6:** Basic dog body language. Students learn what a happy, mean and scared dog look like

**Slide 4:** Happy dog: ears forward, relaxed posture, panting

**Slide 5:** Mean dog: showing teeth, ears back, growling, may have hair standing up on back

**Slide 6:** Scared dog: cowering, fish eyes (whites of eyes showing), ears back

**Slides 7-13:** Body language quiz. Show each photo. Ask the class if the dog looks happy, mean or scared. Why?

**Slide 8:** Mean

**Slide 9:** Happy

**Slide 10:** Scared

**Slide 11:** Mean

**Slide 12:** Happy

**Slide 13:** Scared

### Lesson Two: Safe and Unsafe around dogs

**Slides 14:** Prompt that the next lesson is what is safe and unsafe

**Slides 15-17:** These are all examples of SAFE behavior with a dog

**Slide 15:** Always keep your own dog on a leash, or in the house or a fenced yard when you are home.

**Slide 16:** Tell a grown up if a dog growls, snaps, or bites you.

**Slide 17:** Always ask permission from an ADULT owner before petting a dog. If the owner says NO, that means NO!

**Slides 18:** There are times when you should NEVER pet a dog. Slides 19-29 show UNSAFE behavior with a dog.

**Slide 19:** Never pet a dog through a fence

**Slide 20:** Never pet a dog through a car window

**Slide 21:** Never pet a dog that is tied up

**Slide 22:** Never pet a dog that eating or playing with a toy

**Slide 23:** Never pet a mother dog with her puppies

**Slide 24:** Never pet a dog that is sleeping or resting

**Slide 25:** Never pet a dog that is hurt

**Slide 26:** Don't run up to a dog, that can threaten or scare them

**Slide 27:** Never try to take anything away from a dog, including a toy

**Slide 28:** Never pet a dog that looks scared or mean

**Slide 29:** Don't hug or kiss a dog. They don't like it. How would you like it if everyone was hugging and kissing you?

**Slide 30:** Quiz: Which dogs could you safely pet with permission?

**Slide 31:** NO- dog is sleeping

**Slide 32:** YES- happy dog

**Slide 33:** NO- dog is eating

**Slide 34:** NO- dog is behind fence

**Slide 35:** YES- happy dog

**Slide 36:** NO- dog is in car

**Slide 37:** NO- dog is chewing on toy

**Slide 38:** YES- happy dog

**Slide 39:** NO- hurt dog

**Slide 40:** NO- mother with puppies

### Lesson Three: How to safely pet a dog

**Slide 41:** Prompt that the next lesson is how to safely pet a dog

**Slide 42:** For this portion, demonstrate the four steps to safely pet a dog using your stuffed dog, or live dog if you brought one.

- 1.) Walk to the side of the dog and face the same direction as the dog
- 2.) Stand up, or squat down if the dog is small. (Never bend from the waist)

- 3.) Gently extend out your hand with the fingers curled up for the dog to sniff. If the dog backs away, then he doesn't want to be petted.
- 4.) If the dog doesn't back away, then open your hand and pet the dog over his shoulders. Do not pet over his head or tail. (NOTE FOR INSTRUCTORS: Be very specific about the area to be petted, petting other areas may lead to a bite).
- 5.) Let's try! Get a volunteer from the class to perform each of the 4 steps to safely pet a dog.

**Lesson Four: What to do if a strange dog runs up to you**

**Slide 43:** Prompt for next lesson

**Slide 44:** Instructor explains positions

1.) **STAND LIKE A TREE:** Don't run away from a dog- he will chase you. Stand still and be quiet (trees don't talk or make noises). Stand with your hands down and folded. Look down and wait for the dog to leave. If you need to leave, back slowly away and NEVER look at the dog. If the dog comes back, go back to standing like a tree.

2.) If the dog knocks you down: **LIE LIKE A LOG.** Lie down on your belly, don't move, stay quiet, cover your neck with your hands, and wait for the dog to leave.

**Slide 45:** Can you stand like a tree or lie like a log? Have the class practice both positions. Have the stuffed dog run up to them.

**Slide 46:** Awesome Job! At this slide, you can stop the program, or you can continue on to the quiz depending on your time frame and the attention span of the audience.

**Lesson Five: Analytical Thinking- what would you do?**

**Slide 47:** Analytical Thinking Question: You are outside playing in the yard, and you see a woman walking towards you with her dog on a leash. Is it OK to pet her dog?

*Ask permission first, and follow all of the rules:*

- 1.) If the owner says NO, that means NO!
- 2.) If the owner says YES, then
  - a. Walk to the side of the dog and face the same direction as the dog
  - b. Stand up, or squat down if the dog is small. (Never bend from the waist)
  - c. Gently extend out your hand with the fingers curled up for the dog to sniff. If the dog backs away, then he doesn't want to be petted.
  - d. If he doesn't back away, then open your hand and pet the dog over his shoulders. Do not pet over his head or tail.

**Slide 48:** Analytical thinking question: You are walking home from school, and you see a dog tied to a post outside the grocery store. Can you pet that dog?

*Never pet a dog that is tied or chained.*

**Slide 49:** Analytical thinking question: You are riding your bike down your street, and you see a strange dog without a collar. The dog seems friendly and starts to come towards you. What should you do?

*Don't pet a strange dog. If you bike away and the dog chases you, stop, and put your bike in-between you and the dog. Tell your parents when you get home and they can call someone to help the dog.*

**Slide 50:** You are walking your dog, and he finds some chicken bones that someone threw on the street. Your mom told you that chicken bones are bad for dogs. What should you do?

*Never try to take food from a dog, or touch a dog when he is eating. You can try to pull him away from the bones with the leash. Go straight home and tell your parents.*

**Slide 51:** Analytical thinking question: You are with your dog and parents at the veterinary clinic. There are a lot of other cute dogs in the waiting room. Can you pet them?

*Dogs that are at the veterinary clinic are often anxious and nervous. It is best to not pet dogs in this situation, even if the owners say you can.*

**Slide 52:** Analytical thinking question: You want to watch TV, but your dog is taking up the whole couch. When you walk towards her, she looks up at you, but doesn't move off the couch. What should you do?

*Try calling your dog to get her off of the couch. You could even have her come off the couch for a treat. Make her sit, and then give her the treat. Never move or push a dog that is sleeping or resting- she may bite.*

**Slide 53:** Analytical thinking question: You are in the kitchen doing homework, and suddenly you hear your two dogs barking and fighting in the living room. You are worried they are going to hurt each other. What should you do?

*NEVER REACH IN TO BREAK UP A FIGHT! Breaking up a dogfight can be dangerous because the dogs can bite you in the process. Try making a loud noise, such as banging on a pot or a whistle, or ringing the doorbell to stop the fight. Call an adult to help.*

**Slide 54:** Analytical thinking question: You come home from school and see that your dog has taken one of your favorite stuffed animals. You chase after him to try to get it back, and the dog goes under the kitchen table. What should you do?

*NEVER CHASE A DOG. Never reach towards a dog when he is under something. Never take something away that the dog stole. Call an adult to help. If no adult is there, then walk away from the dog.*

**Slide 55:** Great job! End of the presentation. Leave students with the **bookmarks.**

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