

** PRESS RELEASE **

The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association rolls out new Dog Bite Prevention Program

Dog Bite Statistics

Nation-Wide

- 4.5 million people per year are bit by dogs, 60% of the victims are children.
- 1 in 5 dog bite victims need medical attention.
- About 30,000 people require reconstructive surgery from a dog bite injury each year.

Minnesota

- Between 1998 and 2005, the incidents of dog bites increased 40%
- During that same time frame, 24,584 Minnesotans required medical attention from a dog bite. 849 of these people required hospitalization, and one patient died. Greater than 18.6 million dollars in health care costs were wracked up due to dog bite injuries during this period. *Minnesota Medicine, July 2007

MOST DOG BITES CAN BE PREVENTED

Dog Safety Tips for Children:

- Always ask permission from an adult owner before petting an unknown dog
- There are certain times when you should NEVER pet a dog:
 - Through a fence or car window
 - A dog that is tied up
 - A dog that is eating or playing with a toy
 - A dog that is sleeping
 - A mother dog that is nursing her puppies
- If a dog runs up to you, **STAND LIKE A TREE!** Stand with your hands at your side. Don't run. Be quiet, trees don't make noise. If the dog knocks you down, **LIE LIKE A LOG!** Lie down and don't move, protect your neck with your hands. Don't run away from a dog- they will chase you.

Dog Safety Tips for Parents:

- Supervise your dog with your children, particularly toddlers. Dogs can behave differently with children than adults.
- Train your dog. All dogs should attend at least one obedience class.

The **Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA)** and your **local veterinary professional** have been teaching children how to be safe around dogs.



The **MVMA Dog Bite Prevention Program** teaches children how to:

- Approach and pet a dog safely
- What is Safe and Unsafe with a dog
- Basic dog body language
- How to **STAND LIKE A TREE** or **LIE LIKE A LOG** if a strange dog approaches you.



Contact Dr. Teresa Hershey, program director, to learn more about Dog Bite Prevention. 952-448-3520 (H), 612-925-1121 (W).