

Dog Bites - The statistics are startling....

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*



The good news - Most dog bites can be prevented!



Talk to the front desk staff about having a Westgate team member come and talk to your elementary school or youth group about how to be safe around dogs. This informative, fun program is FREE and takes about 1/2 hour.

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.

