

HOME MATTERS

Loss prevention tips for all your home matters provided by: **Marshall & Sterling**

Did You Know?

A dog may be considered man's best friend, but unfortunately, dog bites do happen. According to the Insurance Information Institute, dog bites accounted for \$530 million in homeowners insurance liability claims paid out in 2014 in the United States.

PREVENT DOG BITES

Use these tips to lower your risk of getting bitten:

- Never pet dogs without allowing them to smell you first.
- Do not approach a dog that you do not know.
- Do not turn your back to a dog and start to run away if you feel threatened, because their natural instinct is to chase and catch you.
- Avoid disturbing a sleeping or eating dog, as it may bite out of fear.
- Always leave dogs alone if they are playing with toys or caring for their young.

Use these tips for your own dog to minimize your risk:

- Introduce your dog to various situations and people so that it will not be nervous in new social circumstances.
- Teach your dog to act properly at all times. When the dog exhibits signs of aggression, even in a playful manner, put a stop to it.
- Do not bring your dog into social situations if you are unsure how it will react.
- Spay or neuter your dog to reduce its desire to roam and become aggressive with other dogs and humans.

Safety First

If you are in a situation where you feel threatened by a dog, do not run away. Instead, do not look the dog in the eye and remain motionless with your hands at your sides. When the dog loses interest in what you are doing, slowly back away.

If a dog tries to bite you, place an object between yourself and the dog, such as a jacket or purse. If the dog forces you to the ground, curl up into a ball and cover your ears with your hands until someone comes to assist you.

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