



## Be Doggone Safe: Prevent Dog Bites!

### Tips for kids to prevent dog bites

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- ✓ **ALWAYS** ask if you can pet someone's dog.
- ✓ Don't bother a dog when it is sleeping, eating, or chewing on a bone or toy.
- ✓ Allow a dog to see and smell you before you touch him.
- ✓ Instead of giving hugs or kisses to the dog's face, scratch the side of the neck.
- ✓ To stop a dog from chasing or bothering you, the best thing to do is to stand still and "be a tree". Stand still, fold your hands, and look at your feet. The dog will get bored and leave you alone.



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## Adults: Keep kids and dogs safe.

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- ✓ Never leave an infant or small child alone with a dog, even if it is your pet.
- ✓ Be aware of your child's activity around a dog - give the dog a "time out" when it is sleeping, eating, or chewing on a bone or toy.
- ✓ Teach your child how to act around dogs and to never approach strange dogs, no matter how friendly they look.
- ✓ If a dog is bothering them, even a family pet, teach them to "be a tree". Have them stand still and look at their "roots" (their feet).



Meriden Health Department  
165 Miller Street  
Meriden, CT 06450  
203-630-4226  
[www.meridenhealth.com](http://www.meridenhealth.com)

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