



# Tips for Avoiding Dog Bites

Many dog attacks can be avoided. Regrettably, most media stories of dog attacks on people, especially children, focus on the injuries caused rather than what could and should be done to avoid such incidents in the future.

BARK BUSTERS have compiled this information to help you avoid dog bites:

- Many people are bitten by dogs because they either misread the dog's intentions or react the wrong way when approached by a dog.
- Dogs have poor eyesight and therefore have to come very close to someone to assess them. A dog sighting something moving past its yard will most likely bark and growl, which is its way of instilling fear in its foe, then run at the person.
- The dog needs to get very close in order to scent what it is, and this is where people usually get bitten. Instead of stopping and allowing the dog to sniff them, most people think the dog is trying to get close to bite them and either kick out at the dog or run. All this does is make the dog retaliate and attack.

## THE BEST WAY TO AVOID AN ATTACK BY A DOG THAT IS RUNNING AT YOU:

- Stand totally still.
- Do not move a muscle and do not try to pat the dog – even some dogs that appear friendly might not like being touched.
- Wait for the dog to lose interest in you.
- Keep your eye on the dog and do not stare. Dogs do not like to be stared at as they view it as threatening.
- Food can help. If you have some with you drop it on the ground and remain still. Do not hand feed the dog.

## IF YOU ARE KNOCKED TO THE GROUND BY A DOG:

- Do not attempt to get up – lie totally still.
- Roll yourself up into a ball-type (foetal) position and stay there until the dog loses interest in you and it is safe for you to move.

Bark Busters conducts Dog Safety Lectures for people whose work brings them into contact with dogs, such as postal workers and meter readers. Lectures demonstrate how to avoid an attack. For more information contact 0808 100 4071 or visit [www.barkbusters.co.uk](http://www.barkbusters.co.uk) or [www.dogsafety.co.uk](http://www.dogsafety.co.uk)

*Please call us anytime if you require assistance.*



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