

PREVENTING DOG BITES

Clinton County Dog Bite Prevention Education

In Clinton County, hundreds of children are bitten every year...most bites are preventable.

The Center for Disease Control tells us that each year, 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. Of those injured, 386,000 require treatment in an emergency department and about a dozen die. The rate of dog bite-related injuries is highest for children ages 5 to 9 years, and the rate decreases as children age. This prompted the co-operative effort of the CVPH Foundation and the Clinton County Health Department to realize the need for public awareness of this problem. Together they sponsored dog bite prevention videos, and educational materials for the community, in a hope to help reduce the number of bites per year.

What are the Reasons Why Dogs Attack?

- Protecting their puppies, territory, or family members
- Feeling threatened by you
- In pain, injured or ill
- Surprised by your sudden appearance
- Bothered while eating
- Frustrated from being chained or tied
- Excited, nervous or "playing"

Know the Warning Signs

- An aggressive posture
- A fearful posture
- Growling, snarling or snapping
- Staring straight ahead
- Teeth showing or curled lips
- Hair standing on end

Protect Your Pet From Rabies

Remember, your dog or cat can be vaccinated for rabies when it turns 3 months of age. One year after the first dose, your pet requires a booster, which is then good for three years. For the rest of your pet's life, it should have a booster shot every three years.

What Services Are Available?

Through the CVPH Foundation and the Clinton County Health Department, dog bite prevention videos and training materials are available to schools, parents, and the general public. The Clinton County Health Department pamphlet "Preventing Dog Bites In Children" is also available.

How Much Does it Cost?

All services are free to Clinton County residents

Contact Us

NOTE: All animal bites need to be reported, no matter how minor.

To receive more information, or report any animal bite, call or visit us at:

Clinton County Health Department
Environmental Unit
135 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
Tel: (518) 565-4870
Fax: (518) 565-4843

