

## Dog Safety

Claiborne County 4-H  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
December Lesson

### OBJECTIVE:

Students will learn basic safety tips when dealing with dogs.

Students will learn why dogs cause injuries by learning about basic animal behavior.

Students will develop more respect for dogs by learning about their habits and behavior.

Students will learn that the best way to avoid being bitten by a dog is to understand dog psychology.

## Dog Safety

Animals and humans have enjoyed a long and beneficial relationship. Animals have provided humans with a great many things over the years. Can you name some?

- Food
- Clothing
- Shelter
- Transportation
- Power for Work
- Protection
- Hunting Assistance



Ask the class what animal was most likely domesticated (tamed) by man. Answer: the dog.

Ask the class to name some of the many ways humans utilize dogs today.

What is the number one reason we keep dogs today?  
Companionship, simply for pets!

Ask the class to name some of their favorite dog breeds. Tell them your favorite dog breed.

## Dog Safety

What animal injures more people in the United States each year than any other?

You guessed it, the DOG!

Dogs are wonderful companions, but they can and do cause people a lot of injuries. We are going to talk a bit about why dogs bite and then we will talk about what we can do to 'bite-proof' our furry companions.



Ask the class, "Who has been bitten by a dog before?" Then ask the class, "Who has been bitten bad enough to have to go to the doctor?"

You will be surprised by the number of hands in the air.

This slide introduces what we are going to talk about.

## Dog Safety



### Wake-Up Call!!!!

On average, over 4 million people are bitten by dogs in the U. S. each year.



This is cute.....

.... this, not so much!



This slide just throws out an interesting statistic and a couple of neat pictures.

(by the way, the mean looking dog on the right is a Dogue de Bordeaux, the dog on the movie Turner and Hooch)

## Dog Safety

Have you ever heard someone say, "Naw, he won't bite" when talking about their dog?

or

Have you ever heard someone say, "I don't like those dogs, they're all mean."

People say things like this all the time. Can you fairly say that a dog will never bite? Can you fairly say that all dogs of a particular breed are bad?

No! (on both counts)

This slide illustrates what we have all heard someone say at one time or another.

The point is that we cannot categorically state that a particular dog will not bite or that a particular breed of dog is all bad.

Remember, any dog will bite under the right circumstances.

Some breeds are, however, more prone to bite than others.

## Dog Safety

Name a few breeds of dogs you have heard folks talk about as 'bad' or 'dangerous.'



Pit Bull

Rottweiler

Doberman

German Shepherd

While the Pit Bull and Rottweiler are the most likely breeds to cause fatal attacks, the dog bite epidemic extends to all breeds and all owners.

Ask the class to name some breeds that they consider dangerous. Pictures of some large breeds will come up.

Point that while pit bulls and Rottweilers are responsible for the majority of fatal dog attacks, there has been a case of a four-pound Pomeranian killing a six-week old infant.

Dog attacks can occur from any size or breed of dog!

## Dog Safety

According to the Humane Society of America, the tendency of a dog to bite is a product of at least five factors:

1. The quality of care and level of supervision it gets from its owner
  - In other words, dogs that are trained to attack, dogs that are completely untrained, dogs that are left chained to a doghouse 24/7 are more likely to bite than dogs that have a lot of interaction with humans.
2. The degree of socialization that a dog has had
  - If you play with your dog regularly, teach it obedience commands or just teach it simple tricks. The dog will have a lesser chance of biting someone. Simply spending lots of time with your dog helps a lot!



Which dog looks happier?



The next couple of slides bring out some important points.

Under no. 1, stress that if you are not going to spend time with dog and care for it properly, You Don't Need A Dog!

Under no.2, stress that dogs that exposed to new sights, sounds, smells, situations, etc., are less nervous and therefore less apt to bite. Fear causes bites! Lessen the fear!

## Dog Safety

3. The level and type of training a dog has had
  - In training your dog to do anything you are really training him to listen to you. Simple commands such as sit, heel, come, etc., as well as simple tricks teach your dog to listen to you.
4. The behavior of the victim
  - If you have ever heard that a dog can tell when you are scared, believe it. When you are scared and unsure around a dog, the dog becomes scared and unsure of you. Dogs senses are very acute.
5. The dog's genetic predisposition to be aggressive
  - This means that some breeds are naturally more aggressive than others. Many of the terrier breeds along with breeds that guard and work livestock can be more aggressive.



Great Pyrenees



Giant Schnauzer



Australian Cattle Dog

For no. 3, stress that even training your dog to do simple tricks or commands at home teaches the dog to listen to you. Going to an obedience class is even better (remember socialization?).

For no. 4, some people are naturally scared to dogs. When you are scared and unsure, dog becomes scared and unsure and this increases the chance of fear biting. Running from a dog triggers the chase instinct.

For no. 5, some breeds are supposed to be aggressive. If you are not an experienced dog handler, avoid these breeds. Terriers, mastiffs, pit bulls, etc. Research breeds before you get a new dog. Never 'impulse buy' a puppy just because its sooo cute!

## Dog Safety

You will notice that of the five points we just discussed, a dog's owner has control over four of them (not victim behavior).

What does that tell us....

The first step in preventing dog bites is being a Responsible Dog Owner!!!

Good things happen when you are a responsible dog owner!



Stress to the class that the dog owner has control over four of the five points we just discussed.

Hopefully, this illustrates that being a responsible dog owner is the best way to stem the dog bite epidemic.

Again, if you are going to have a dog, spend time with it, train it, treat it right or just don't have a dog. Simple.

## Dog Safety

Now let's talk about dog psychology. Knowing a little about how dogs think can help us be safe around them.

Dogs evolved from what....



Wolves live in .....



Here we switch gears and talk about dog psychology.

As much as we want our dogs to use human logic and have human emotions, they don't. They're dogs!

Expecting dogs to think like humans is illogical! We have to learn how and why they think and act like they do. It is part of being a responsible dog owner.

## Dog Safety

As a result of their descent from wolves, dogs still have somewhat of a 'pack' mentality.

This means that they will protect members of their pack (you and your family) and they will protect their pack's territory (your house and yard).

Not all dogs do this well, but many will especially if they know they are part of the pack (your family).

Do you think this Doberman would protect her family? You better believe it!

This slide is self explanatory. You do not have a professionally trained 'guard dog' in order for your dog to keep watch over your property. A dog will naturally protect its territory and family.

There is a picture of a Doberman with its family that appears. This family is well protected by a dog that is still friendly toward non-threatening strangers.

## Dog Safety

Another thing to consider about wolves is how they make a living.....



...they run down their prey and kill it.

So that tells us what?

Running away from a dog can trigger the instinct to chase. This is how we train our dog to fetch a ball or retrieve a duck.

This same hunting instinct is what our livestock herding dogs use to get their work done.

Again, the slide is self explanatory. Dogs chasing things is the hunting instinct, inherited from wolves. Now it may only be chasing a ball, but this is where it came from.

Running away from a dog only makes it want to chase you!

A couple of pictures of herding dog will appear at the end of the slide.

## Dog Safety

As we stated earlier, wolves live in packs. Every member of a wolf pack has its own standing or position within the pack.

There is always a dominant male and dominant female in every wolf pack, the 'alpha male' and 'alpha female.'

Dogs will try to establish their dominance or place in your pack (family). That means we have to teach them that people are higher in social standing of the pack than dogs.

This is one of the reasons that small dogs are snippy and aggressive. People think they are too cute to discipline!

Stress to the class that dog owners must be the alpha leaders of their dogs. When a puppy growls at you over its food, it is not cute. The puppy is asserting its dominance. If you do not correct this behavior, the puppy will grow into a dog that bosses you around.

Folks, I see this all the time, especially in small dogs. Why do you think Chihuahua's are known for bad temperament? Because people let them be ill-tempered!

A couple of pictures of snarling dogs are at the end.

## Dog Safety

Finally, wolves and all wild animals have what is called a 'fight or flight' instinct.

This means that if animal is cornered or feels that it cannot get away from, it will fight you.

But, if it is not cornered and can get away, the animal will run away from you rather than risk getting hurt in a fight.

This tells us that we should not chase or try to catch a strange or stray dog. Doing this greatly increases your chances of being bitten!

This slide is easy to understand and hopefully illustrates why you should try to catch or pet a stray dog.

Backed into a corner by people it doesn't know, most dogs can become fear biters!

A picture of a Chow-mix backed into a corner comes up at the end.

## Dog Safety

### What you need to remember about 'Why Dogs Bite'

FEAR	If a dog feels threatened or trapped, it may bite in order to protect itself. Even though you mean it no harm, a dog cannot understand this.
TERRITORY	One of the things humans have found useful about dogs is their protective nature. A dog may bite if you invade its space or if it feels you are threatening its yard or family.
DOMINANCE	Since dogs are descended from wolves, a dog may try to establish itself as the leader of your family. These tendencies to establish dominance show up in puppies and should be corrected! Make sure that your puppy knows that you are the leader before it grows up!

This slide just reinforces what we have already gone over. Go over it anyway!

Stress to the class that they should never pet a strange dog without its owner's permission. Trying to catch or pet unknown dogs results in a lot of dog bites to children.

## Dog Safety

### What you need to remember about 'Bite-Proofing My Dog'

TRAINING	Proper training for puppies includes much more than housebreaking. Get some books or videos on dog training or find an obedience class to attend with your dog or puppy. Training when a dog is young will teach the dog to listen to you and you will find that a well-trained is much more fun to be around.
SOCIALIZATION	Taking your dog to an obedience class, a dog show, or just going to town will expose your dog to new sights, sounds, and experiences that we take for granted, but can scare dogs. Get them used to going places when they are young.
SPAY/NEUTER	A dog that has been 'fixed' at a young age will have less aggressive tendencies. Unless you have an outstanding purebred dog that you plan to breed, GET YOUR DOG FIXED! It will pay off in the long run.

Again, this slide just reinforces what we have already gone over except for the bottom point.

Stress that almost all pets should be spayed or neutered. Especially in males, this reduces aggressive tendencies. There are also low-cost programs as well as free programs to get pets spayed or neutered.

## Dog Safety

In closing, remember that dogs are wonderful companions and willing servants to mankind.



It is our duty to do our best to reward that loyalty by taking care of our dogs as best we can because they will take care of us.



Just for fun!

## January Contests – Bread Baking

### BAKING CONTEST

Both the breadbaking and cookie contests will be at your January meeting. (All entries should be baked by the 4-H member making the entry.) *Parents and grandparents may help, but please remember that this is the 4-H members project.*



You may enter as many of the categories as you are eligible. You will receive ribbons for all entries.

### BREADBAKING

- 4th Grade - 3 Cornmeal Muffins
- 5th - 6th Grades - 3 Biscuits
- 7th - 8th Grades - Sweet, Quick Bread (loaf or 3 muffins)
- 9th - 12th Grades - Yeast Bread (a loaf or 3 rolls)

### COOKIE CONTEST

Division V: Drop Cookies - all grades

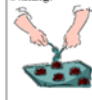
Division VI: Bar Cookies - all grades

Division VII: Shaped Cookies - all grades



### THREE TYPES OF COOKIES

**DROP COOKIES:** The dough is dropped from spoons onto baking sheets. Leave space between the dough for it to spread when baking.



**BAR COOKIES:** These cookies have a texture more like cake and are the easiest to bake. The dough is spread in a greased pan and baked for a given length of time. When cooled, the cookies are cut into squares or bars.

**ROLLED-SHAPED COOKIES:** This type of cookie dough is rolled and cut using different shaped cutters. Or the cookies are made from stiff dough, and shaped with the hands.



The bread baking and cookie contest rules.

## January Contests – Model Vehicles



Building models is a popular activity for many 4-H members. Only enter one model in each class. (All models must be made by the 4-H member entering them in the model contest.) You may use plastic model kits, snap together kits, or wood kits.

### CLASSES ARE:

1. Model Car - plastic, wood, or other kits
2. Model Truck - plastic, wood, or other kits
3. Model airplanes, boats, space shuttles or military vehicles

### JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges will look for:

Neatness of model. How does it look compared to all other models?

Use of glue. Glue should not be visible on outside. Use a toothpick or liquid glue made especially for model kits. Any glue visible on windshields will result in points deducted.

Use of paint and/or decals. Are all decals neatly applied? Is paint neat and smooth?

Construction. Do all parts fit together properly or does it fall apart when it is picked up to be judged?

Difficulty of model. How difficult was your model compared to others in its class. Remember, snap together models are not as difficult as those requiring glue.



The model vehicle contest rules.