

## Dog Safety



### For field workers

People who work in the field (postal carriers, various meter readers, sales and delivery persons, etc.) frequently come into contact with dogs.

Any dog can and will bite if the need is felt.

Dog owners are your first line of safety and ultimately decide how safe their dogs will be.

Stray or roaming dogs also pose a hazard in the neighborhood – not only for you but also for the residents.

Do you know how to reduce your chances of being bitten while on the job?

Developed by:  
The Safe Kids/Safe Dogs Project  
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## Why dogs bite

Two of the various “emotions” dogs have that can lead to bites are the desire to protect property and/or family and fear. If the dog feels his home is at risk, he may try and stop you. Dogs may bite out of fear or anxiety. Things such as equipment, uniforms and bags that dogs are not socialized to can develop into fears of them.

### What can I do to be safer when entering yards?

Never enter a yard where a dog is present. Even if the dog is acting playful, that behavior may change when you step into the yard and on his turf.

If an owner is home, ask to have the dog brought in before you attempt access. If the owner is not home, you should not enter the yard. You will be at greater risk of being bitten.

When you enter a yard with a tied or kenneled dog, ignore it. Do nothing to further excite the dog. Get in and out quickly.

### What about loose dogs on my route?

If a loose dog approaches you, FREEZE! Never try to force the dog to back down. The dog may perceive what you are doing as a threat or challenge and act accordingly. Running may trigger the natural chase drive many dogs have. Remain still, quiet and calm.

Move what you are carrying to your front. If the dog lunges, hopefully he will grab what you have and not you. If the dog attacks, roll into a

ball and protect your face, neck and abdomen. Call for help.

There are sprays designed to deter attacking dogs. If you carry one, know how to use it. Improper use can result in the spray not working as desired and the dog becoming even more agitated.

Know the various Animal Control numbers for the regions you cover. Call if needed. Log and report any incidents to your supervisors.

### What can I do to educate dog owners on my route?

Encourage your company to develop literature that can be periodically delivered to homes on your route. Talk with dog owners, if possible, about what they can do to allow you do your job in a safer manner. Dog safety begins with the owners.

### What can my company do?

Companies need to develop clear guidelines regarding the entering of property with dogs and work with communities to increase dog safety awareness so their employees may do their jobs.

