

Resources

Associations

Association of Pet Dog Trainers

1-800-PET-DOGS

(for a list of trainers near you)

St. Hubert's Giraldia Animal Welfare

Center, Madison, New Jersey

(973) 377-0116

(training school)

Books

Child-Proofing Your Dog

by Brian Kilcommons and Sara Wilson

Web Sites

www.ddfl.org/aggressi.html

www.ddfl.org/dodnt.html

www.sthuberts.org

For more information, call the
Westchester County Department of
Health at (914) 813 - 5000

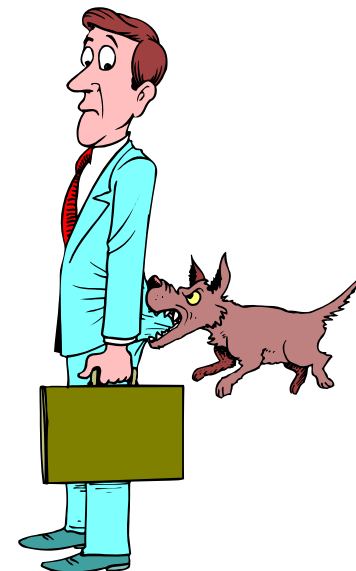
or

see our website at
www.westchestergov.com/health



**Never try to take
away a dog's toy.**

Take The Bite Out



**Training is the
Answer**

To help lessen the possibility that your dog bites again, you should:

- ✿ Never leave your dog alone with children, including family members.
- ✿ Confine your dog to an area away from your guests and/or service people.
- ✿ Never allow your dog to be outside unattended (not even in a fenced in yard) or off leash. This should be true even if your dog has never bitten anyone.
- ✿ Teach your dog appropriate behavior and basic commands. This should be done with the help of a certified applied animal behaviorist, veterinary behaviorist or a qualified dog trainer.
- ✿ Teach children how to behave around animals, especially dogs. Children should never treat dogs like a toy, tease them or abuse them. Children must be taught to be gentle with animals.
- ✿ Spay or neuter your dog.
- ✿ Do NOT play aggressive games, like tug of war and wrestling, with your dog. Don't physically punish a dog. In most instances the dog will become more aggressive.

Reasons Dogs Bite

Biting is never acceptable behavior for a dog, regardless of the reason.

The dog has a dominant or aggressive personality. Some dogs have a tendency toward being aggressive or dominant.

The dog is frightened or cornered. Loud noises, abrupt movements, or disturbance while sleeping may frighten a dog to the extent that he may bite in a misguided attempt to defend himself.

The dog is protecting its territory. A dog may define its territory as the corner where he sleeps, the yard, a toy, a person, its puppies, or wherever he happens to be.

The dog is injured or in pain. You should never handle an injured dog, including your own, without taking special precautions to avoid getting bitten.

A dog may instinctively chase something, such as a jogger or a person on a bike. Therefore, it is important never to allow your dog to be loose outside. An electric fence does not adequately restrain a dog or animals who may enter the property.

A dog may get too excited during play. Since dogs do not have hands they use their mouths to grab with and someone may be inadvertently bitten or scratched.



Important

“Obedience training is a must so your dog learns to respect you and your commands. If your dog is under control, many aggression problems can be avoided.”¹

Correcting aggressive behavior in a dog is potentially dangerous. “If you have a dog that bites, a private trainer or behaviorist should be consulted. A decision will have to be made as to whether or not your dog will be or is a danger to members or your family, friends, neighbors, other dogs and children. Many times the problem can be solved. However, if it is advised that your dog is dangerous and has an unsolvable biting problem, the responsible solution is to have the dog euthanized.

¹. St. Hubert's Giralda Animal Welfare Center

