

# Be Dog Smart

## Tips to Stay Safe Around Dogs

### How to Behave Around Pet Dogs at Home

**Always be gentle around pets!**

**Never tease a dog by:**

- taking away their toys or treats
- pretending to hit, kick or make sudden movements around the dog
- pulling the dogs ears or tail, or attempting to ride the dog
- poking the dog
- staring the dog in the face
- hugging the dog around the neck
- yelling at the dog

**Leave dogs alone when they are:**

- eating
- playing with or chewing a toy
- sleeping
- caring for puppies



### How to Act Around Dogs You Do not Know

**Never approach a strange dog that is not with its owner, even if it looks friendly!**

**Never:**

- pet a dog that is not with the owner
- pet a dog before asking the owner
- pet a dog that is tied up, behind a fence or in a vehicle
- run past or ride a bike close to a dog, even if it is on a leash

**Remember to always be respectful to dogs, especially ones you do not know!**

**NEVER go into a dog's kennel or crate! Do not bother a dog while it is sleeping.**



**Report stray dogs and dogs that continually get loose in the City of Regina to Regina Humane Society Animal Protection Services (306) 777-7700, or contact the local animal control in your community.**

**Visit the Regina Humane Society website at: [www.reginahumanesociety.ca](http://www.reginahumanesociety.ca)**



## How to Safely Pet a Dog

Only pet a dog when it is with the owner.

**Before** petting the dog, always ask the owner if it is **okay**.

**After** the owner says it is okay to pet the dog, slowly show the dog your fist and let it sniff the back of your hand.

When the dog has finished sniffing the back of your hand, slowly pet the dog under the chin or on the side of the neck.



## How to Act When You are Approached by an Aggressive Dog

**Remain calm. Do not yell or scream. Do not** run away or hit the dog as it may think you want to play or chase you. Do not stare at the dog. Try to avoid eye contact.

Try to slowly back away from the dog. If this does not work remain calm and “**Be a Tree**”:

- stand still and
- place your hands low and hold them together in front of your body.

If you are knocked to the ground cover your head and neck with your hands and roll into a ball by bringing your knees to your chest. Look at your knees, and not the dog.



## What to Do if a Dog Bites You

First, carefully wash the bite or scratch with soap and warm water.

It is **very important** that you get the **animal owner's name, address, and telephone number, and the rabies vaccination status of the biting dog** so that a rabies follow up investigation can be carried out. This is done to ensure that the dog did not have rabies at the time of the biting incident.

See a health care provider who provides treatment and report the incident to the Environmental Health Department for follow up.

If rabies is suspected, the rabies vaccine is given to the victim. Rabies vaccines are very effective and relatively painless. This is rarely necessary as the risk of rabies is very low.



**Regina Humane Society**

**For more information call the Environmental Health Department at:**

**Regina (306) 766-7755  
Fort Qu'Appelle (306) 655-4015  
Indian Head (306) 695-4016**

**Visit the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region website at [www.rqhealth.ca/bedogsmart](http://www.rqhealth.ca/bedogsmart)**