

## WHAT TO DO IF CHALLENGED/ATTACKED

1. Stop - Turn sideways from dog. Don't face head on or look him in the eye. (Don't run or scream.)
2. Try to control him by sternly saying No! Down! or Go Home.
3. If you have something in your hand, get it between you and the dog, and use it as a bite object.
4. Do not freeze - start to back away slowly (If the dog is a trained guard dog, he will intensify his challenge until you stop. The guard dog will not make further advances, but may not release you until his handler arrives). If the dog is not a trained guard dog, you should be able to move slowly out of his territory.
5. Talk to the dog as you retreat in a low calming tone of voice.
6. If you have a child with you, don't pick him up as the dog may think you are harming the child. Keep the child behind you.
7. If a dog leaps at you, don't turn your back or scream. Cover your face and neck with your hands and arms and face the dog.
8. If a dog leaps at you, bring your knee into the dogs chest.
9. Never lie down if attacked but if knocked down, curl up in the foetal position, cover your neck and face with your arms and be quiet and still.
10. If bitten, wash and disinfect the area and see a doctor as soon as possible.
11. Notify your local Animal Control office with relevant information as soon as possible after the incident: ie. Type, size colour of dog.  
Any collar or tags it was wearing.  
Time and location of incident.  
The direction the dog took if it ran off.

Produced by Animal Control Services  
(With Acknowledgements to AHA)  
PO Box 6575 Wellesley St, Auckland N.Z.  
Auckland City (09) 360 0750  
Papakura D.C (09) 360 0750  
Franklin D.C (09) 237 1300



## Children and Dogs



### ESSENTIAL READING FOR

- Dog Owners
- Parents
- Youth Leaders
- Children

Dogs have earned the title of "man's best friend" and have an important role to play in today's world. Immunization against disease and advanced techniques in training and breeding have done much to further dog's infusion into the human controlled world.

One of the best kept secrets of today's society is the epidemic status of dog attacks with 1/3 of these attacks being on children under 12 years of age. It is felt that *most* of these could have been avoided by knowing and using the information contained within. Proper selection, training and control is the responsibility of all dog owners. PARENTS SHOULD ADD "PROPER BEHAVIOUR AROUND DOGS" TO "BEWARE OF STRANGERS"; "DON'T PLAY WITH FIRE", ETC.

This information has been gathered from many sources in an attempt to provide a simple source for everyone. It is not the total answer to your dog's behavioural problems. It will not ensure you of properly evaluating your pet without error, nor will it necessarily keep your child from becoming the target of a dog's aggressiveness. The purpose of this brochure is to make you more knowledgeable about dogs and their relationship to people. Remember that care and education are the best ingredients when mixing children and dogs.

Those contributing to this publication make no guarantees about the ability of laymen to adequately evaluate dogs, nor the exact reaction of dogs in an aggressive situation. This does represent generally accepted tendencies in dog behavioural patterns that help in dealing with dogs.



an ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES presentation

## HOW TO AVOID DOG ATTACKS

1. Never approach a dog you do not know unless it is restrained by its owner.
2. Don't run past a dog.
3. Don't stare directly at a dog.
4. Know the signs of a dog ready to attack (ears, eyes, tail, hair on back, baring of teeth, growling etc.)
5. Avoid dog packs.
6. Don't scream, wave your arms or run away.
7. Don't try to separate fighting dogs.
8. Don't bother a dog when it is eating, and be careful in handling, moving or removing its food.
9. Exercise additional care when a dog has puppies.

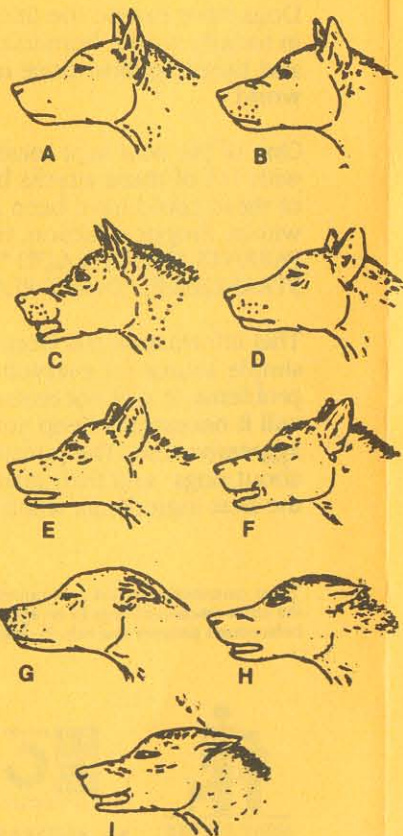
### How To Read A Dog's Body Language

**Forward** and **alert** are the key things to look for when reading a dog's body language. Confidence and willingness of a dog to attack can be noted by the forward tilt of the ears, open eyes, teeth bared, hair on back of neck standing up, tail raised, dog on toes.

A dog in this stance (head picture C) is combat ready and shows little or no fear of the opponent. "A" is alert but not aggressive (yet); "B" is alert and concerned; "D" shows an uncertainty of the situation; "E" indicates an uncertain concern and "F" indicates an aggressively defensive dog. The dogs shown in "G", "H" and "I" all have the ears laid back and squinted eyes indicative of fear. These dogs are afraid and would really prefer to be left alone. The dog depicted in illustration "G" is just scared; "H" is showing that he will fight his way out if cornered, "I" is scared to a dangerous level of irrationality.

A wagging tail isn't a good indicator of a dog's tendencies. The tail tucked between a dog's back legs shows submissiveness, while the higher the tail is carried indicates confidence and/or dominance.

Growling and barking are obvious signs of displeasure and should be heeded.



## HOW SAFE IS YOUR DOG?

Experts agree on two points regarding dogs biting: Any dog with teeth can and will bite under some circumstances; and any dog that displays aggressive behaviour probably will bite someone eventually.

Evaluate your dog regarding the following behaviour tendencies:

Yes No

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Does your dog have a highly developed predatory instinct. Does he like to chase things? Retrieving ability does not count.                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Does your dog react quickly to subtle stimulus? Is he highly excitable?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Does your dog rebel against domination or authority? Does he show displeasure about being forced to "sit" or especially "down" on command?                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Does your dog seem especially "territory protective", not only at home, car or yard, but anytime he is territorially restricted by a physical boundary or lead. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Does your dog show quiet confident interest in strangers as they approach, with obviously more aggressive behaviour as the stranger gets closer?                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Does your dog ignore discipline or attempts to dominate him?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Does your dog react defensively to physical threats?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Has your dog ever bitten anyone?  |

If you checked yes to any of these questions, your dog has the potential to be a problem biter and you need to ensure that the dog is not allowed into circumstances where he is liable to cause injury to family members or others.

If you fear your dog for these or other reasons, you should seek professional help with your dog. YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL DEPARTMENT CAN GIVE YOU GUIDANCE IN EVALUATING AND GAINING CONTROL OF YOUR DOG AND/OR PLACING THE DOG IN AN ENVIRONMENT BETTER SUITED TO HIS INSTINCTS OR WILL REFER YOU TO A CANINE BEHAVIOUR SPECIALIST. The very act of bringing an animal into the home as a pet places the owner under obligation to properly feed and care for it, to protect it from abuse and from abusing others. In addition, and specifically the following are some of a ...

### Dog Owner's Responsibilities

1. Every dog should have obedience training and remain under control of its master.
2. All dogs must be leashed when off the owners property
3. Pet dogs should be spayed or neutered.
4. All dogs must be registered.
5. Dogs should have annual vaccinations against leptospirosis/distemper/hepatitis.
6. Bitches in heat should be confined.
7. Owners are expected to clean up their dog's faeces.
8. Keep dog's I.D. tag and registration disc, properly attached to the dog's collar at all times.
9. Each owner should ensure that they provide proper space for their dog's needs.