

## ANIMAL SAFETY

### Owner Precautions

Research a variety of dog breeds before bringing a new animal into your residence. Prior to selecting a new pet, visit breeders and conduct research on the breeder and on the dog breed. Puppies should not be purchased without meeting the sire and the dam.

Socialize a puppy with other dogs, animals, and persons so that it can become acquainted with others.

Visit the vet regularly. Dogs should be neutered, as this procedure generally reduces aggressive behavior. Dogs should be up to date with rabies vaccinations, and other precautionary shots.

Enroll in an animal obedience class.



### Avoiding Dog Bites

Never leave a small child or a stranger alone with a dog.

Young children should be taught to avoid contact with unknown dogs, to never pet a dog from behind, and to always ask the dog's owner for permission to pet or to play with the dog.

A dog should never be touched while sleeping, eating, or caring for its young.

If approached by a stray dog, remain calm. Stay still, even if the dog encroaches upon you. Most dogs will sniff to determine you are not a threat, then walk away. Never turn your back on a dog and run away.

Upon encroachment, cover your head and neck with your hands. If you fall or are knocked over on the ground, curl up into a fetal position with your hands covering your head and neck.