

HOW TO ACT AROUND A STRANGE DOG...

- Stop, stand still, speak softly.
Do not touch a strange dog.
- Wait to see what the dog will do.
- Do not strike, kick, or make any threatening gestures.
- Look for signs of an unsafe dog:
Rigid body, stiff tail at half-mast, shrill, hysterical bark, crouching or slinking with heel lowered and nose to the ground, staring expression and an attempt to circle you.
- Pivot slowly, always facing the dog, if the dog tries to circle you. Wait until the dog stops moving, then move slowly. **Stop** when the dog moves again.
- Do not try to make friends with a strange dog. The dog will want to smell you first, and then it will decide whether to be friendly to you.
- Do not hand a package to a person or shake hands when the person's dog is nearby. The dog may misinterpret the move and strike at you to protect its owner.

*Adapted from the Carroll County, Maryland and
the Hopewell Township, New Jersey Health Departments.*

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!
ATLANTIC COUNTY DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
www.aclink.org



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TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT RABIES



WILD • STRAYS • PETS

TEACH YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT RABIES...

Animal Bites are the #1 way of getting **rabies**. The most common carriers are the raccoon, skunk, fox and bat.

PROTECT YOURSELF!

- Never touch a wild animal, even if it is dead or injured.
- **Leave Wildlife Alone.** Do not make pets of wild animals or try to "save" baby animals, even if they seem abandoned.
- Do not pet stray animals.
- Pets can get rabies too! Cats are the number one domestic animal affected by rabies in the Northeast. **Have your dogs and cats vaccinated.** Call the Atlantic County Animal Shelter at (609) 485-2345 for the date of the next free rabies vaccination clinic.
- **If you are bitten**, immediately wash all animal bites thoroughly with soap and water. Call your doctor or go to the nearest emergency room.



WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN BY AN ANIMAL...

- Wash the wound immediately with soap and water.
- Call your physician right away.
- Report the bite as required by state law.

The attending physician must report the bite. If no physician attends the wound, the individual or responsible adult must report the incident to the County Health Department.

- A responsible adult should **confine** the biting animal, without risking injury to people, until help arrives.
- **Wild animals** that bite must be tested for **rabies**.
- **Pet dogs and cats** that bite must be quarantined as prescribed in State law and their vaccination records must be checked.
- **Pet dogs and cats** which have fought or otherwise tangled with another animal must have their vaccination record checked, receive a booster as directed, and be quarantined according to State law.

Telephone the Atlantic County Health Department for further information on rabies.

609/645-5971

Call the local Animal Control Officer or Police Department if you see an animal acting strange, if your pet is fighting another animal, or if you see a dead or injured animal.