Be Safe Around Dogs

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A program in dog bite prevention can be presented to children in public school classrooms, civic centers, churches, synagogues or scout troop meetings.

The most important part of the presentation is the 13-minute video that can be purchased on this website. We have been impressed by how much children can remember about the proper interaction with dogs after the first viewing of the video.

The following slides will present a typical class including questions and follow-up activities.

Of course we would love to hear from you too if you have experiences that you would like to share with us.
Dog Bite Prevention Classes

- Children in the first grade are able to remember nearly all of the principles taught in the video after one viewing. Older children may learn even faster.

- A typical presentation may take as long as 45 minutes.

- The program can be presented to a single class but it would be more efficient if a couple of classes were combined. All teachers should review the information in the parent brochures prior to viewing the video.

- The dog bite prevention website will contain materials that can be downloaded to reinforce the lesson.

- If a volunteer is going to present the program, then the teacher will introduce the volunteer to the children.
Warm-up with the children. (5 minutes) The teacher or volunteer will engage the children in an interaction about dogs as pets. Typical comments/questions:

- “I am so glad you could be here today to learn how to use good behavior around dogs.”
- “How many of you have a pet dog at home?”
- “How many of you have a big dog?” Call on a child. “What’s your dog’s name?”
- “Why are dogs so much fun?”
- “What do you enjoy about your own dog?”
Dog Bite Prevention Classes

(Continued)

- “Are most dogs friendly? Are all dogs friendly?”
- “Do dogs sometimes bite?” “Why?”
- “Have any of you ever been bitten by a dog?”
- Call on a child. “What happened just before the dog bit you?”
- “Well, many dogs are friendly but some are not. We want you to know how to make friends with friendly dogs and why you should stay away from dogs that are not friendly.”
- “So I want you to watch and listen very carefully to the video so you will know how to use good manners around dogs and learn about making friends with friendly dogs.”
Dog Bite Prevention Classes

**Video.** (13 minutes) Produced by the UT College of Veterinary Medicine starring Rufus, Chris and friends.

**Follow-up Questions** (5 minutes)
- The volunteer will ask some specific questions about the film and emphasize the importance of good manners around dogs.
- The volunteer will use the name R-U-F-U-S as an acronym for reminding the children about Respect, Understanding dogs, Friendly dogs, Unfriendly dogs and Staying away from some dogs.
**Dog Bite Prevention Classes**

**Reinforcement (10-15 minutes)**

- If the volunteer is accompanied by a trained dog, then the volunteer can use the dog to demonstrate principles of interaction such as being a tree, acting like a log, or meeting and greeting a dog that is with an adult. This portion of the program can also be accomplished with a large stuffed toy dog or even one of the children who will put on “doggie ears” and pretend to be a dog.

- The volunteer will answer questions and then ask the children to take the brochures home and go over what they have learned with a parent or guardian.

- The following slides show some snapshots from presentations at a school and a YMCA:
Dog Bite Prevention Class at a Local School
Powell Elementary School
Dog Bite Prevention Class at a Local YMCA
Dog Bite Prevention Class at a Local YMCA
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Dog Bite Prevention Class at a Local YMCA
Dog Bite Prevention Class at a Local YMCA
Dog Bite Prevention Class at a Local YMCA
We will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thank You!!

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