

All dogs can bite



**Know the signs,
prevent dog attacks**

Any dog can bite when feeling threatened or under stress, regardless of its breed, age or size.

Some dog owners underestimate their pet's potential to bite.

Spot the signs

Frightened dogs can suddenly bite so it's important to recognise any early signs of anxiety in your dog.

Pay attention to your dog's body language and take note of slight changes in its:

- tail posture
- fur
- facial expressions.

These signals combine to give a picture of your dog's emotional state.

By understanding your dog's body language and avoiding situations that cause them stress, you'll create a safer environment for everyone.

More information:
[wearefamily.nsw.gov.au/
understanding.html#dogs](http://wearefamily.nsw.gov.au/understanding.html#dogs)



Safety starts at home

**Know the signs,
prevent dog attacks**

Any dog can bite, regardless of its size, age, or breed.

Young children are most at risk from dog attacks, especially those aged 0 to 4. Most dog attacks happen at home, or in familiar environments.

Supervise or separate

To reduce the risk of dog bites, actively supervise your children and dogs, or keep them separated.

Children and adults should:

- pat a dog's side, not its head
- never hug a dog around the neck as some dogs find it overwhelming
- be gentle when playing. Rough play can excite or scare a dog
- give dogs alone time. Never bother a dog when it's eating, sleeping or caring for puppies
- never stare intensely at a dog. They can interpret this as threatening behaviour.

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