

From: On Behalf Of City of Fort Worth Community Relations Department-  
Neighborhood Office  
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2006 6:30 PM  
To: List Member  
Subject: Warmer Weather Means Greater Possibilities of Dog Bites

Each year, over 800,000 Americans seek medical attention for dog bites; half of these are children. With the summer months approaching, more people and animals will be outside, which means a greater risk of animal bites or attacks.

The Fort Worth Animal Care and Control Division responds to more than 1,000 bite incidents each year. Fortunately, the solution is easy. Simply following Fort Worth Animal Care and Control laws can prevent future bites. These laws require pet owners to physically restrain dogs to their property with a secure fence. When walking, pets are required to be on a leash at all times.

Pet owners can also do their part by socializing their animals and having them spayed or neutered. The following are additional tips residents should always follow to avoid animal bites:

- Do not threaten a dog or its property, pups or owners.
- Do not surprise a sleeping dog.
- Do not bother a dog that is eating.
- Do not try to break up a fight between dogs.
- Do not establish a routine where a dog continually chases you off every time you walk by.
- Do not knowingly walk into a situation that puts you at risk.

If confronted by a threatening dog:

- Stand still, DO NOT RUN. Dogs love to chase people.
- Do not threaten a dog by hitting or kicking it.
- Allow the dog to calm down or check you out by sniffing.
- Do not make eye contact with the dog.
- Slowly back out of the dog's territory.

If an owner is uncooperative or allows a dog to roam, call the Animal Care and Control Division at (817) 392-3737 to report the problem.