

# How to prevent dog attacks in the home

## The problem:

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- Most serious dog attacks (resulting in hospitalisation) occur in the home.
- Children aged 1-4 years are the group most at risk (followed by children 5-9 years). They are more likely to be hospitalised due to dog attack than due to car accidents.
- Most children are bitten by their own dog, or by a dog they know, when playing with, patting or feeding dogs.

## The solution:

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- Active supervision is the key. Never leave young children (particularly children under 5 years of age) alone with dogs.
- Train and socialise your dog. Understand a little about dog behaviour.
- Don't allow children to play roughly, tease or corner dogs, or hug dogs around the neck.
- Teach kids the warning signs of a frightened or angry dog, and what to do if confronted by an aggressive dog (see the card "How to prevent dog attacks in the community").
- Teach kids when to leave dogs alone. ie when dogs are asleep, feeding, unwell, with pups, tied up, not with owner, in a car, behind a fence/gate.

# DON'TS for dogs



Don't tease



Don't disturb  
when sick



Don't approach  
angry dogs



Don't cuddle  
face to face



Don't disturb  
when sleeping



Don't disturb  
when feeding



Don't approach  
frightened dogs



Don't allow dogs  
near parties



Don't disturb  
when with pups



Don't climb  
on fences

For more information, visit  
[www.pets.info.vic.gov.au](http://www.pets.info.vic.gov.au)

\*Source: Ashby (2001) "Establishing the case! The facts of dog bite - Victorian public hospital injury surveillance". Urban Animal Management Conference Proceedings Melbourne, Australian Veterinary Association.

A second card "*How to prevent dog attacks in the community*" is also available. For more information, contact the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186 (for the cost of a local call).

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