

## **Animal Bites Are Preventable**

Each year the Health Unit responds to hundreds of animal bites. Along with the pain and possible emotional and physical scarring caused by a bite is the risk of exposure to rabies.

These simple tips may help prevent an animal bite:

- Stay away from wild, stray or unknown animals.
- Never leave small children unattended in the presence of an animal.
- Don't disturb an animal that is eating, sleeping or caring for its young or is exhibiting signs of illness.
- Be a responsible pet owner, vaccinate your pet against rabies, keep them under your control when out in public spaces and fence your yard.
- Avoid running past a dog as they like to chase things.
- Never reach through a fence or enter a home unannounced as dogs may be protective of their territory and may feel you are a threat.
- If threatened by a dog, avoid eye contact, speak firmly, stay still until the dog leaves, or back away, don't turn and run.
- If you are knocked down, curl up in a ball and cover your head and neck.
- If you are bitten, clean the wound, try to determine who the owner of the animal is, seek medical attention and report the bite to the Health Unit.
- For further information on dog bites, please visit these websites at:  
[www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org) and [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)