

Many dog attacks can be avoided. Regrettably, most media stories of dog attacks on people, especially children, focus on the injuries caused rather than what could and should be done to avoid such incidents in the future.

BARK BUSTERS have compiled this information to help you avoid dog bites:

- Many people are bitten by dogs because they either misread the dog's intentions or react the wrong way when approached by a dog.
- Dogs do not have the same definitive eyesight or the discerning recognition powers that humans possess. Therefore, they have to come very close to someone to assess them. A dog seeing something moving quite fast past its yard will most likely bark and growl to repel the threat, which is its way of instilling fear in its foe.
- The facts are dogs need to get **very close** to a human to affectively scent them and this is where people usually get bitten as their fear can cause them to move or try to run. A common mistake that sees people bitten is where they mistake the approach by a dog as an invitation to touch the dog that is sniffing them.

THE BEST WAY TO AVOID AN ATTACK BY A DOG THAT IS RUNNING AT YOU IS:

- Stand totally still.
- Wait for the dog to lose interest in you.
- Keep your eye on the dog BUT do not stare. Dogs do not like to be stared at as they view it as threatening.
- Food can help. If you have some with you drop it on the ground and remain still.
- Do not hand-feed the dog, just drop the treat onto the ground.

IF YOU ARE KNOCKED TO THE GROUND BY A DOG:

- Do not attempt to get up – lie totally still.
- Roll yourself up into a ball-type (foetal) position and stay there until the dog loses interest in you and it is safe for you to move.

Bark Busters conducts Canine Safety Lectures for people whose work brings them into contact with dogs, such as postal workers and meter readers. Lectures **definitively** demonstrate how to avoid an attack. For more information contact **AU: 1800 067 710** or visit www.barkbusters.com.au or **NZ: 0800 167 710** or visit www.barkbusters.co.nz

Please call us anytime if you require assistance.

General Guide Only

Disclaimer: The information detailed here has proven to be beneficial to our trainers but is only designed as a 'guide' ONLY to dog safety and in no way is designed to protect people from dog attack. Bark Busters accepts no responsibility for any death or injury suffered by anyone using the techniques here and the reader acknowledges that the information here is only a guide.

