

# Idaho Falls Police Department

News Release

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For Immediate Release:

During the warm summer weather it's inevitable that more and more people will be outside. This usually means that if you're spending more time outside, there's a greater chance you'll have an encounter with a dog.

Sometimes these encounters result in someone being bit.

Here are some tips that will help prevent you from being bitten:

- Learn and teach your children proper dog etiquette: When approaching a dog, if it's on a leash with the owner, be sure to ask if its OK to pet the dog. If given permission, be sure to get to the dog's level and present the back of your hand for it to sniff. Once the dog is comfortable with you, then go ahead and pet.
- Don't approach a stray dog – let the dog approach you first.
- Don't stick fingers or other body parts inside fences.
- Don't taunt or tease any animal.
- If there's a dog in a yard – it's best to stay out.
- Never break up a dog fight – it's almost guaranteed you'll get bit!
- Don't run from a dog: A dog's natural predator instincts kicks and it will chase you. If a dog acts aggressively, it's best to slowly back away from the animal and not turn your back toward it.
- If the dog attacks you, don't kick it, inevitably this will put you at a disadvantage. Instead, give the dog your weak arm, allowing you to use your strong arm to fight off the dog.

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