

# Animal Interaction Safety tips

## WAYS TO AVOID DOG BITES OR INJURIES



PJ's Rescue

### Why do dogs bite?

- Excitement/play
- Possessive/protective
- Fear
- Accidental
- Attention
- Sick or injured

### What to do when you see a loose dog?

- Avoid the dog- do not attempt to catch them
- If the dog can be secured safely in yard, do so
- Inform an adult
- If the owner is present, request that owner secure the dog
- If the dog remains unsecured, call 911

### What to do when visiting an unfamiliar house

- Announce arrival or call ahead if possible
- look for signs of dogs (bowls, toys, kennels)
- Jiggle fence, shake keys, whistle. Make presence known
- If a dog is present, ensure it is secured before entering the home
- Inquire about any dogs before entering the home



### Do's and Don'ts when approached by unfamiliar dogs

- Stand still; Don't run away; Walk slowly away from dog
- Avert your gaze; Don't look directly into their eyes
- Use firm, confident commands
- Offer bag, purse, hat, or other objects to dog instead of body
- If there is no object to use, offer weak arm instead of dominant arm—do not pull away!
- If knocked over, assume fetal position on knees, cover your face and neck
- Do not play with the dog unless supervised by adult or owner
- Do not disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating, or with pups
- If bitten, tell an adult, wash area with soap and water, seek medical attention (call 911 for emergencies)