

Learn a new language - DOG. Dogs (and most mammals) communicate primarily through body language and scent. Humans tend to use sound. Learn to "speak" a little dog; it will help you with your own dog and with any dogs you meet.

Dog Bite Prevention Tips

- Always ask before petting someone else's dog (or cat); then let the dog sniff the back of your hand before you touch.
- If you see a loose dog, tell an adult. If it approaches you, stand still and quiet. Keep your hands at your sides.
- Train and socialize your dog so that s/he is comfortable around people.
- Spay or neuter your dog. Dogs who have not been spayed or neutered are three times more likely to bite than those who have not.
- When petting a dog, pet gently on the back or side. Avoid petting the dog's head or around the mouth.
- Learn as much as you can about how animals communicate by the way they look, act and sound.
- Children should pet someone else's dog at arm's length. You don't want the child's face to be the body part closest to the dog's teeth.
- **Don't** touch a dog/cat while he is eating, sleeping or guarding something. Pets naturally guard their food, babies, toys, car and yard.
- **Don't** chain your dog outside for long periods of time. This can cause dogs to feel isolated and become aggressive.
- **Don't** run from a dog. A dog's natural instinct is to chase. Stand still, like a tree, usually the dog will sniff you, then leave you alone.
- **Don't** touch a sick or scared animal. It may bite you out of fear or surprise.
- **Don't** stare into a dog's eyes. They may think you are threatening them.
- **Don't** hug someone else's dog - they may perceive it as an attack and may snap back.