

# ANIMAL

# BITE

# PREVENTION



## AND GENERAL INFORMATION

**In 2020 there were 31 animal bites reported** to Alpine Animal Services, most of which were provoked incidents and could have possibly been prevented. Alpine Animal Services is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of the citizens of Alpine and would like to provide some helpful tools for citizens to stay safe around animals in our community.

### **What can I do to prevent being bitten by an animal?**

1. Stay away from all unknown animals, both wild and domestic
2. Never leave small children unattended in the presence of an animal
3. Don't disturb an animal that is eating, sleeping or caring for its young or is exhibiting signs of illness
4. Avoid running past a dog as they like to chase things
5. Never reach through or enter a fence or home unannounced as dogs may be protective of their territory and may feel you are a threat
6. Never touch a sick, injured, trapped or dead animal, call Animal Services to handle the animal instead
7. Do not let your pets (dogs and cats) run at large, it is against city ordinance
8. Do not feed wild animals
9. Vaccinate your cats and dogs against rabies, it is the law in the State of Texas

## **What do I do if I have been bitten?**

1. Getting to safety if you are dealing with an aggressive animal is always the most important
2. Report the bite to your local law enforcement as soon as possible, do not wait to report a bite
3. If dealing with an owned animal make sure to get the animal's owner information if possible
4. Know your location when the bite occurred, if the animal owner is unknown or you were bit by a wild animal, it is important for Animal Services to know the location to attempt to locate the animal
5. See or call your doctor immediately for advice on wound care

## **What do I do if my pet bit someone?**

1. Get your pet under control to prevent further bites or scratches from happening
2. Help the injured person by calling for help
3. Be sure to provide your name, address and phone number to the injured person
4. Return your pet to your home and keep them in a secure area away from people and other animals (such as in a fenced yard/kennel)
5. Check your pet's medical records so you can provide information on when the pet was last vaccinated against rabies
6. Do not euthanize your pet without speaking to local law enforcement
7. Keep your pet under your care and control
8. Contact your local law enforcement

## **What do I do if my pet is bitten by another animal?**

1. Follow all guidelines that you would if you were bitten
2. Contact your veterinarian

## **What can I do to prevent my animal from biting?**

1. Vaccinate your pet against rabies, it is the law
2. Keep them under your control when out in public spaces
3. Fence your yard
4. Know your pet's behaviors
5. Speak to your vet

