

# EVEN *Nice* DOGS CAN

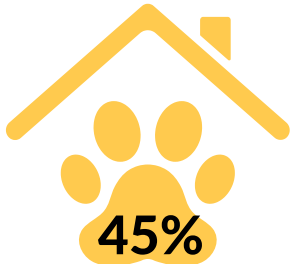
# BITE!

THE SECOND FULL WEEK OF APRIL IS NATIONAL DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK



**84-89 MILLION DOGS**

in the United States



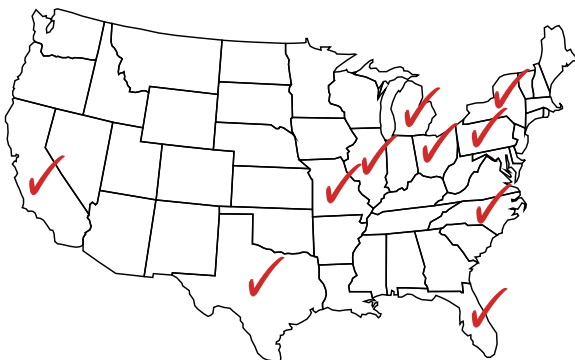
**45%**

of US homes have at least 1 dog

**4.5**

**MILLION people** bitten by dogs each year

**Top 10 states** reporting **dog bite** claims in 2024



KEEP READING FOLLOWING PAGES FOR TIPS THAT CAN HELP PREVENT DOG BITES FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN.

## CHILDREN

are the most common victims of dog bites and are far more likely to be severely injured.



Statistics source: avma.org

## PILLARS OF BITE PREVENTION



1. Socialize your dog
2. Educate your community
3. Avoid risky situations

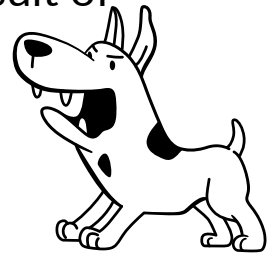
LEARNING DOG BEHAVIOR CAN HELP PREVENT DOG BITES.

# BEHIND THE



All dogs are different. But excessive barking is often the result of one (or several) of these factors:

- Territoriality
- Boredom
- Frustration
- Reactivity
- Anxiety or fear
- Making demands
- Need for attention
- Communication with other animals



Along with *reasons* for barking, there are also *types of barking*, which are distinguishable by pitch and volume. Mikkel Becker, dog behavioral counselor and the lead animal trainer with Washington state's 'Fear Free' provides a sound breakdown:

- **LOW, GRUFF** barking is a “go away” signal telling others to back off.
- **QUICK, HIGH-PITCHED** barking means the dog is probably overexcited and amped up.
- **SHRILL** barks and **YIPS** are often calls for someone to come closer; these sounds are particularly common with animals experiencing separation-related issues.
- **LOUD, CONSTANT** barking is usually related to fear.
- **SHARP YAPS** are a demand for attention, food, or play.

Regardless of the pup's reason for barking excessively, the solution depends on two common traits: kindness and patience. Your goal as a pet guardian is to use positive reinforcement-based methods to guide dogs toward “behaviors you want them to choose,” says Becker. “This ensures your dog's efforts pay off so he's likely to perform them again in the future.”

Dogs are great communicators and their tails act as a barometer for their mood and letting us know just how they feel.

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# TELL-TAIL SIGNS OF



Understanding canine body language cues can help you understand dogs and how to interact safely with them. Although **tail movement and position** may vary slightly between dog breeds, many general movements are the same:

Tail Position or Wag

Possible Meaning

**LOWERED AND BETWEEN THE LEGS**



Fear, anxiety or submission

**SLOW WAG**



Unsure and feeling insecure about a situation

**TAIL HELD HIGH**



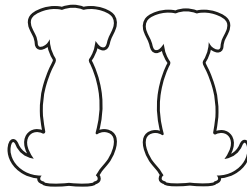
Something has piqued the dog's interest/attention (like a ball or other animal)

**SIDE-TO-SIDE ENERGETIC WAG**



Friendly greeting, especially when accompanied by a play bow or a few licks

**RIGHT SIDE WAG**



Relaxed

**LEFT SIDE WAG**



Alert, stressed, or anxious

However, there's more to canine body language than just tail movements. It's important to pay attention to other factors as well.