

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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**Media contact:** Paul Butler, Public Information Officer

Office: (352) 589-6424, After Hours: (352) 728-7662

E-mail: [paul.butler@flhealth.gov](mailto:paul.butler@flhealth.gov)

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LAKE COUNTY PROMOTES  
NATIONAL DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK**



**LAKE COUNTY** - The Florida Department of Health in Lake County joins the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to promote May 17-23, 2015 as National Dog Bite Prevention Week. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) more than 4.7 million people in the United States annually suffer from dog bite injuries, approximately half are children. Many of these injuries are from dogs they know and interact with regularly.

“Public education plays an important role in reducing the risk of dog bites particularly with children. We continue to work together to educate our community. Information and education are the best solutions for this public health issue.” said Aaron Kissler, Administrator Florida Department of Health in Lake County

Every year, more than 500 Florida residents are bitten severely enough to require hospitalization and two Floridians die due to injuries sustained from dog bites. Injury rates in Florida are highest among children between the ages of one and nine years old, with boys being bitten more often than girls in the same age group. In addition, a higher proportion of children under ten years of age sustain bites to the head and neck compared to other age groups.

***Dog Bite Facts:***

- Each year, more than 4.5 million people in the U.S. are bitten by dogs.
- Almost 1 in 5 people bitten by dogs require medical attention.
- Every year, more than 800,000 people in the U.S receive medical attention for dog bites; at least half of them are children.

- Children are, by far, the most common victims of dog bites and are far more likely to be severely injured.
- Most dog bites affecting young children occur during everyday activities and while interacting with familiar dogs.
- Senior citizens are the second most common dog bite victims.

If bitten:

- Seek medical attention immediately
- Control bleeding and wash the area of the bite with soap and water.
- Report the bite to your local county health department, animal control agency or police.

Remember, there are many things you can do to avoid dog bites, ranging from properly training and socializing your pet to educating your children on how or if they should approach a dog. For more information or resources to help you learn more about dog bite prevention visit the AVMA website at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)

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