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OF VERMONT**

Union Mutual of Vermont Companies

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With winter coming to an end, we begin to see more and more people out enjoying the warmer weather. This includes the number of dogs out as well. The Humane Society has posted a recent reminder for preventing and avoiding dog bites:

Learn **DOG SAFE**: **D**on't tease, **O**nly pet with permission, **G**ive space, **A**lways get help, **F**ingers together, and **E**ven good dogs can bite.

Tips to avoid being bitten by a dog:

1. never approach a strange dog, especially one who's tied or confined
2. Do not pet a dog without letting him see and sniff you first
3. Never turn your back to a dog and run away
4. Do not disturb a dog while he is sleeping, eating or chewing a toy or caring for puppies
5. Always be cautious around strange dogs, assume any dog who doesn't know you may see you as an intruder or a threat
6. When feeding a dog a treat, place the treat in the palm of your hand and keep fingers together

What to do if you think a dog may attack:

1. Never scream and run
2. Remain motionless, hands at your sides, and avoid eye contact with the dog
3. Once the dog loses interest in you, slowly back away
4. If the dog does attack, "feed" him your jacket, purse, bike or anything that you can put between yourself and the dog
5. If you fall or are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball with your hands over your ears and remain still.