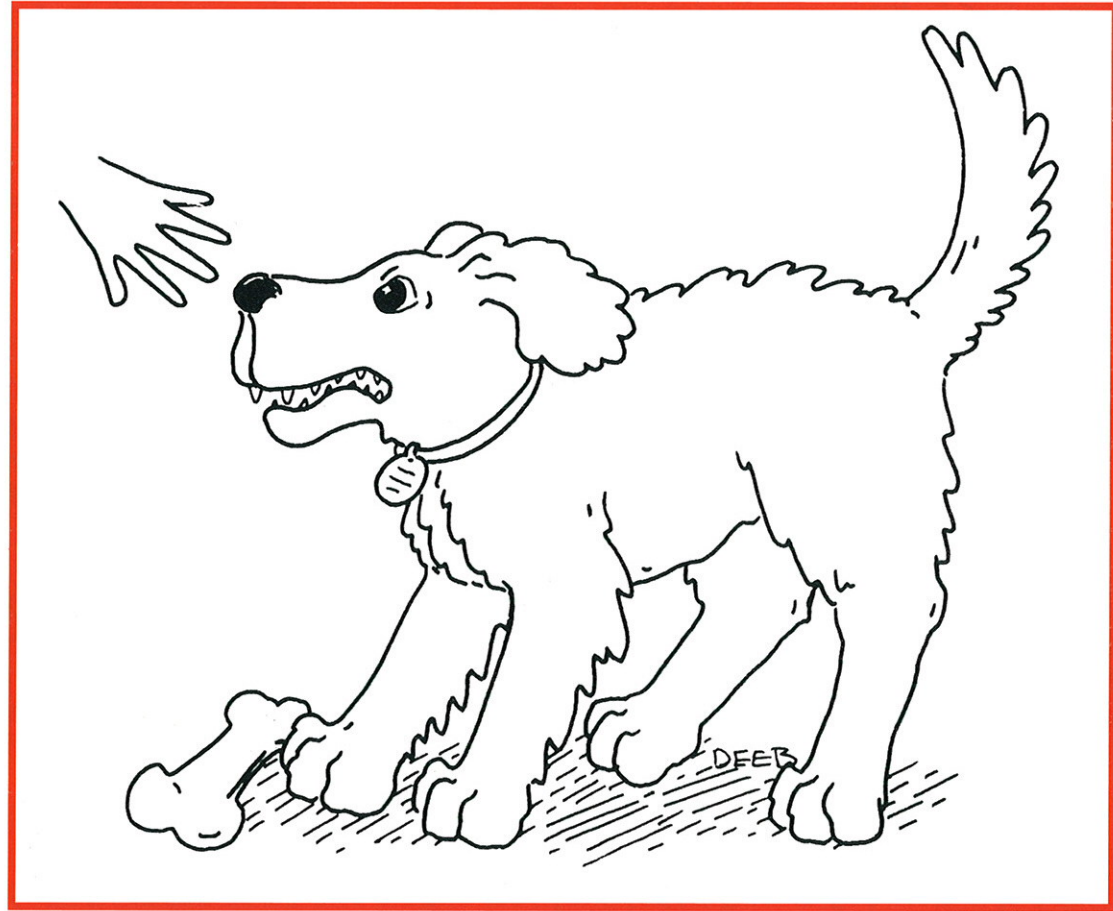


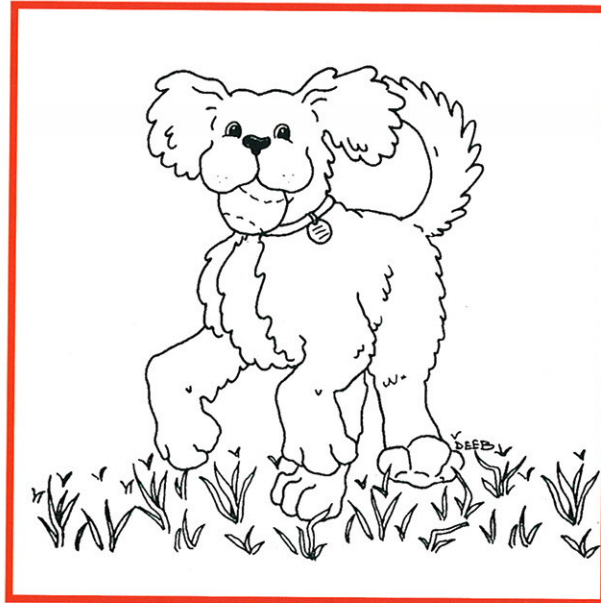
Gypsy and You:



How to Avoid Dog Bites



AMERICAN HUMANE



This is Gypsy. She is a fine dog who lives with a family that loves her and takes good care of her. Gypsy has never bitten anyone, but there are dogs that have bitten people. If someone was not nice to Gypsy, she might bite, too.

Dogs bite people when they are afraid, or angry, or hurt.

Let's take a look at some things that might make Gypsy bite.

Gypsy May Feel Scared

Would you be scared if a stranger suddenly came into your house? If you surprise Gypsy by coming into her house or yard, and Gypsy doesn't know you, she may feel scared. If Gypsy is scared, she may bite.

When you see a dog that you don't know, remember the dog doesn't know you either and may be afraid. Do not go into a yard to pet a dog you do not know. Do not try to pet a dog that is chained. Never reach through a car window or fence to pet a dog you do not know. If the owner of the dog is there, always ask first if you may pet the dog.

Gypsy May Feel Left Out

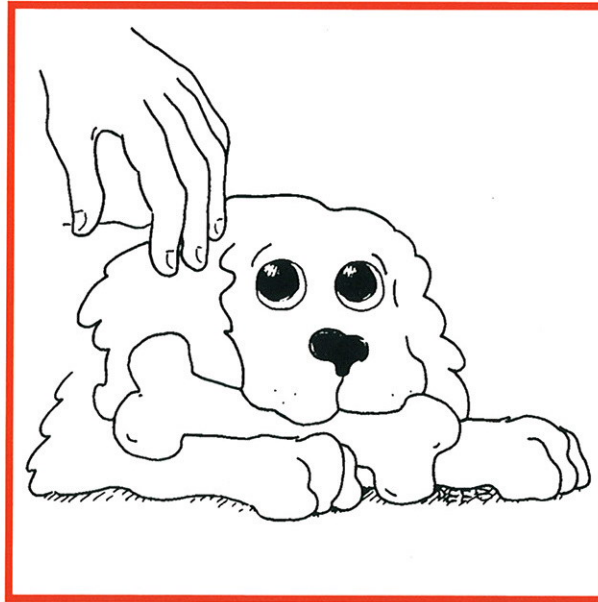
Do you sometimes feel left out? Gypsy can feel left out too. When there is a new baby in the house or a new dog or cat, Gypsy may feel like no one cares about her anymore. When Gypsy doesn't get enough attention, she may feel angry and she may nip or bite.

A dog needs extra attention and love when there is a new baby or a new pet in the house.

Gypsy May Get Too Excited

Do you like to be teased or yelled at? When you tease, chase, or holler at Gypsy, she may get too excited and then she may nip at you. Don't pull her ears or tail, either. You may be having fun, but Gypsy is being hurt.

When you play with a dog, always be kind and gentle.



Gypsy May Not Want to Share

Do you always want to share your food or toys? You might get angry if a person grabbed a toy or sandwich out of your hands. Sometimes Gypsy may not want to share her things either. Gypsy might not want to share her food, bones, balls, sticks, or other toys.

Remember that dogs have their special things just like you have special things. Never grab anything from a dog.

Gypsy May Bite Accidentally

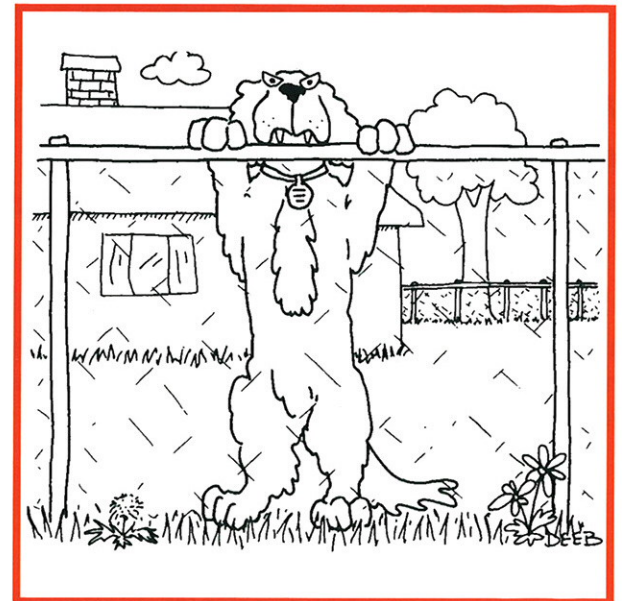
If Gypsy got into a dog fight, you might want to help her. But people can be bitten accidentally when they try and stop a dog fight. Never stick your hand into a fight. You may be bitten accidentally.

When dogs are fighting, find an adult to stop the fight.

Gypsy May Want to Protect Someone or Something

Do you have special things that you want to protect? Gypsy has special things, too. Some special things to Gypsy are her owner, her yard, and her house. If Gypsy wants to protect her things, and you come too close, she will growl at you.

Respect a dog's feelings about the special things it wants to protect.



•How to Tell if a Dog Is Upset

The picture on the cover shows Gypsy when she is angry. If Gypsy is barking, growling, or snarling with her teeth showing, she is getting ready to bite. If her ears are laid back, or her legs are stiff and her tail is up, she is warning you. The hair on her back will also stand up. If you continue to do what you are doing, she will get more angry and bite you.

•Do's and Don'ts

If Gypsy is acting like she may bite, follow these rules:

- Do not stare Gypsy in the eyes.
- Do not turn your back and run away.
- Do slowly walk away sideways.
- Be firm. Say "NO!" to Gypsy and act like you are the boss.
- If Gypsy is angry and jumps on you, curl up in a ball on the ground and protect your face.

•What to Do if You Are Bitten

Tell an adult you know right away.

If you are bitten by a strange animal, remember:

- If it had a collar or tag;
- The type, size, and color of the animal;
- The direction the animal went.

Wash the wound with soap and water.

See the doctor at once.

Report the bite to the local health department.

•Important Things to Remember

Just as there are good ways and bad ways to behave with people, there are good ways and bad ways to behave with animals. Always be kind and gentle with animals. They have feelings, too.



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Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877

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