



## Santa Rosa County Animal Services

### PREVENTING BITES

- Any dog, despite its breed, can be a good family pet. There are many reputable breeders throughout the U.S. Do your research when buying a purebred animal.
- Sixty-one percent of dog attacks happen at home or a familiar location with over 77 percent belonging to the victim's family or friend.
- Children under ten are more likely to be attacked, with face, neck and head injuries that are severe. In fact, dog bites are the second most frequent cause of visits to emergency rooms of nine activities common among children.
- Owners of large breed animals must be particularly vigilant in observing children around their pet as even an accidental or play bite can cause serious injury.
- **Teach children that if they are attacked by a dog, the best defense is to lie on the ground with their hands behind their neck, to help protect the vulnerable areas of the face, neck and head.**
- **Report any suspected animal abuse, including dog fighting to local law enforcement**