



April 27, 2009

DISTRICT MANAGERS
POSTMASTERS

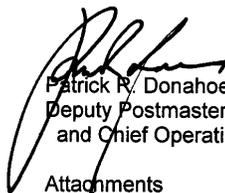
SUBJECT: Dog Attack and Dog Bite Prevention and Publicity Kit for Postmasters

The Postal Service™ continues its tradition of calling attention to one of the nation's most commonly reported public health problems: dog attacks and bites. From nips and bites to actual attacks, violent dog behavior continues to pose a serious threat to our employees. Last year, 3,000 Postal Service employees were victimized by dogs.

Sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service, National Dog Bite Prevention Week is a public service campaign that offers safety tips and emphasizes the need for increased pet owner responsibility in the prevention of dog attacks.

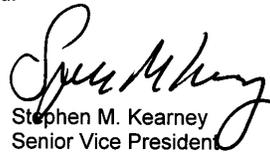
This year's National Dog Bite Prevention Week is May 17-23. The tools available in this kit, and additional tools now electronically posted, will guide you in promoting awareness of this public health concern in an effort to reduce dog attacks and bites in your community.

We urge you to take full advantage of our field communications professionals in assisting you with this initiative. They look forward to hearing from you.



Patrick R. Donahoe
Deputy Postmaster General
and Chief Operating Officer

Attachments



Stephen M. Kearney
Senior Vice President
Customer Relations

National Dog Bite Prevention Week, May 17–23, 2009

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I: Stay Alert: Don't Be Fooled by "My Dog Won't Bite!"

Stay Alert: Don't Be Fooled by "My Dog Won't Bite!"

***National Dog Bite Prevention Week
May 17-23, 2009***



Be a Responsible Pet Owner!

For everyone's safety, don't allow your dog to roam.

**NATIONAL DOG BITE PREVENTION WEEK
MAY 17-23, 2009**



II. Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008 Total OSHA-Recordable Dog Attacks and Bites

District	Number of Accidents	
	2007	2008
HOUSTON	103	106
LOS ANGELES	73	97
SIERRA COASTAL	60	96
SANTA ANA	87	94
LOUISIANA	67	82
CENTRAL ILLINOIS	56	77
ARIZONA	44	72
SACRAMENTO	85	69
BAY-VALLEY	69	65
NORTHERN OHIO	57	63
OKLAHOMA	32	62
GREATER INDIANA	51	60
MID-AMERICA	54	60
TRIBORO	59	57
LONG ISLAND	42	57
RIO GRANDE	64	57
DETROIT	49	55
SOUTH FLORIDA	61	54
NORTHLAND	64	53
COLORADO/WYOMING	61	53
SAN DIEGO	51	53
ALBANY	40	52
GATEWAY	62	47
DALLAS	64	47
CINCINNATI	52	46
NORTHERN VIRGINIA	29	43
SUNCOAST	36	42
LAKELAND	49	42
CENTRAL PLAINS	41	42
CONNECTICUT	47	41
CAPITAL	43	41
HAWKEYE	46	41
KENTUCKIANA	48	40
COLUMBUS	37	40
SEATTLE	43	40
BALTIMORE	33	39
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	63	39
FORT WORTH	58	39
PORTLAND	37	39
WESTERN NEW YORK	28	38
PHILADELPHIA	35	38
MID-CAROLINAS	21	38
NORTHERN NEW JERSEY	67	37
TENNESSEE	53	37
WESTCHESTER	26	35
CHICAGO	30	35
SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN	47	34

District	Number of Accidents	
	2007	2008
PITTSBURGH	51	32
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	31	32
ALABAMA	36	32
NORTH FLORIDA	29	28
SAN FRANCISCO	32	27
MASSACHUSETTS	42	26
CENTRAL NEW JERSEY	32	26
CARIBBEAN	19	25
SOUTH JERSEY	34	25
RICHMOND	41	24
GREENSBORO	24	23
SOUTH GEORGIA	10	23
CENTRAL FLORIDA	32	22
GREATER MICHIGAN	30	22
ATLANTA	27	21
SPOKANE	18	19
BOSTON	22	18
SOUTHEAST NEW ENGLAND	25	18
ERIE	25	18
APPALACHIAN	19	18
ALBUQUERQUE	13	17
SALT LAKE CITY	19	15
NEVADA-SIERRA	25	14
ARKANSAS	25	12
DAKOTAS	16	11
NEW HAMPSHIRE/VERMONT	11	10
HONOLULU	7	10
NEW YORK	11	9
GREATER SOUTH CAROLINA	11	8
MISSISSIPPI	10	7
BIG SKY	7	6
MAINE	9	4
ALASKA	1	4
Total dog bite attacks and bites	3,168	3,000

Source: PS Form 1769/EDW/MSTR

III. Build Community Awareness Through Media Attention (Television, Radio, and Print)

- Building Community Awareness through Media Attention.
- Public Service Announcements — Dog Bite Prevention Week.
- An Employee Event the Media Will Love.
- Media Advisory.
- News Release — A Different Kind of Chorus.
- Postmaster Newspaper Column No 1.
- Postmaster Newspaper Column No 2.
- Postmaster Newspaper Column No 3.

For information regarding the above media outreach opportunities, visit <http://safetytoolkit.usps.gov/Resources>.

This URL will also provide tips on promoting and planning employee events that the media will love.

Dog Bite Prevention Background and Tips

The Victims

- More than 4.5 million people attacked annually.
- Children are the majority of victims and are 900 times more likely to be bitten than letter carriers.
- The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) report that small children, the elderly, and letter carriers, in that order, are the most frequent victims. Dog attacks are the most commonly reported childhood public health problem in the United States.
- The AVMA also reports that the number of dog attacks exceeds the reported instances of measles, whooping cough, and mumps, combined. Dog bite victims account for up to 5 percent of emergency room visits.
- Many of the OSHA-recordable bites that were reported by letter carriers in 2008 came from dogs whose owners used those famous last words “my dog won’t bite.”
- According to the AVMA, as many as 800,000 people annually are admitted to U.S. emergency departments with dog bite-associated injuries, and countless more bites go unreported and untreated.

How to Avoid Being Bitten

- Don’t run past a dog. The dog’s natural instinct is to chase and catch prey.
- If a dog threatens you, don’t scream. Avoid eye contact. Try to remain motionless until the dog leaves, and then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight.
- Don’t approach a strange dog, especially one that’s tethered or confined.
- While letter carriers are discouraged from petting animals, people who choose to pet dogs should always let a dog see and sniff them before petting the animal.
- If you believe a dog is about to attack you, try to place something between yourself and the dog, such as a backpack or a bicycle.

How to Be a Responsible Dog Owner

- Obedience training can teach dogs proper behavior and help owners control their dog in any situation.
- When the letter carrier comes to your home, keep your dog inside, away from the door, in another room, or on a leash.
- Don’t let your child take mail from the letter carrier in the presence of your dog. Your dog’s instinct is to protect the family.
- Spay or neuter your dog. Neutered dogs are less likely to bite. Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) statistics reflect that dogs that have not been spayed or neutered are up to three times more likely to be involved in a biting incident than neutered or spayed dogs.
- Dogs that haven’t been properly socialized, receive little attention or handling, or are left tied up for long periods of time frequently turn into biters.

**POSTAL NEWS**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[Insert Date]Contact: [Insert your name]
[Insert your phone number]
Internet: www.usps.com

Public Service Announcement May 17–23 is National Dog Bite Prevention Week

Below you will find three public service announcements (PSAs) for your consideration. Spring is here, more people and dogs will be on the street, and this is the perfect time to participate in an education campaign aimed at reducing these painful and costly attacks.

For decades, the U.S. Postal Service® has taken a leadership role in preventing animal attacks because letter carriers are the third most likely group to be bitten by a dog. Children and the elderly rank number one and two, respectively. More information is found on the Dog Bite Prevention Background and Tips sheet attached. **[Attach Dog Bite Prevention Background and Tips sheet.]**

Please join the Postal Service™ in this important public education campaign by using these public service announcements and by interviewing Postal Service, animal protection, and public health officials during National Dog Bite Prevention Week.

PSA 1

It's that time of year again, and the Postal Service, health care providers, and animal protection professionals need your help. Last year, nationwide, 3,000 letter carriers sustained OSHA-recordable dog bite injuries. But that pales in comparison to the more than 4.5 million people — most of them children and the elderly — who are bitten by dogs each year. You can help protect your letter carrier, meter reader, newspaper delivery person, or neighbors' children by making sure your pet is properly restrained. Be a responsible pet owner. Help prevent the injuries and deaths caused by animal attacks. This message is a public service of this station and your local Post Office™.

PSA 2

At this point in our nation's history, even the comedians know that "dog bites man" is no laughing matter. That's why the nation's letter carriers, who suffered more than 3,000 dog bite injuries last year, are reminding pet owners to restrain their dogs to protect letter carriers, meter readers, children, and others who may come near their dogs. This message is a public service of this station and your local Post Office.

PSA 3

Pet owners, did you know that if your dog attacks a letter carrier, you could be held liable for all medical expenses and other costs, which can run into thousands of dollars? Don't think your fence is the only protection you need — especially if a letter carrier or delivery person must enter your yard. The Postal Service is not anti-dog, but pro-responsibility. Responsible pet ownership includes making sure your pet is properly restrained. Last year, 3,000 letter carriers sustained OSHA-recordable dog bites while delivering the mail. Help your letter carrier deliver safely for you. This message is a public service of this station and your local Post Office.

#

IV. Community Involvement

Most people think children and dogs go together naturally, and they often do, but it may shock you to learn that children are the most common victims of dog bites. You can use the following talk and the enclosed handout to alert schoolchildren to two important points in preventing dog bites: Responsible pet ownership and safe behavior around dogs.

Sponsoring a poster contest gets children involved in spreading the word about preventing dog bites. Colorful posters that result from the contest are a great way to get the word out to the public.

Due to budget constraints, a 2009 dog bite prevention poster was not printed. Postmasters should e-mail mark.r.saunders@usps.gov to obtain a link to the high-resolution image for local printing.

Get postmasters and station managers to hang posters or to display them on bulletin boards or at local high-traffic grocery stores.

The postmaster is one of the key leaders in each community. Postmasters should use their influence to win support from other key leaders for our campaign to reduce dog attacks and dog bites. The suggestions in this section will get you started toward some cooperative campaigning for dog bite awareness.

Sample Postmaster Columns

Using the following sample postmaster columns will help you spread the word about the Postal Service's efforts to protect letter carriers and children in the community. The message is that dog bites are a serious matter, and by helping protect letter carriers, the public is protecting everyone.

Place these columns on your letterhead and take or send them to your local newspapers. It's a good idea to localize the articles with experiences from your own Post Office or community. Contact local newspaper editors to propose running the column weekly for 3 weeks. You should also post copies of these columns on your information boards.

Although the material is designed specifically for use during the spring, you also can use it to build community awareness throughout the summer months.

Postmaster Column No. 1

**"Children Suffer Most Dog Bites," By [Name],
Postmaster [City]**

For every letter carrier bitten, hundreds of children needlessly suffer the pain and trauma of dog bites. Whatever the reasons, dog bites are a serious problem for the entire community, and not just our letter carriers. Three thousand dog bites last year. That's an average of 11 dog

attacks every delivery day, and that figure does not include the number of threatening incidents that did not result in injury. These numbers pale in comparison with the more than 4.7 million people — mostly children and the elderly — who suffer injuries from dog attacks each year.

In [City] last year, dogs bit [number] letter carriers and interfered with a significant number of mail deliveries **[or you can estimate a number if possible]**. Fortunately, most dog bites can be prevented through responsible pet ownership.

[If you did have dog bites last year, use the previous paragraph and insert a paragraph or two here giving a few details, such as the seriousness of the incidents and the amount of lost time. If you had no dog bites or no cases of dogs interfering with mail delivery last year, omit the previous paragraph.]

If a letter carrier needs to deliver a certified letter or a package to you, put your dog into a separate room before opening your front door. Dogs have been known to burst through screen doors or plate-glass windows to get at strangers.

[Insert a letter carrier story here, if applicable.]

Nationally, the number of carriers bitten by dogs has declined over the years. This is because of greater cooperation from dog owners, stricter leash laws, and stepped-up efforts to educate letter carriers and the public about dealing with the problem.

Our letter carriers are vigilant and dedicated, but we may be forced to stop mail delivery at an address if a letter carrier is threatened by a vicious dog. In some instances, Postal Service employees have sued and collected damages for dog bite injuries. We can't control people's dogs; only dog owners can do that.

While some attribute attacks on letter carriers to dogs' inbred aversion to uniforms, experts say the psychology actually runs much deeper. Every day that a letter carrier comes into a dog's territory, the dog barks and the letter carrier leaves. Day after day the dog sees this action repeated. After a week or two, the dog appears to feel invincible against intruders. Once the dog gets loose, there's a good chance it will attack.

Dog owners should remind their children about the need to keep the family dog secured. We also recommend parents ask their children not to take mail directly from letter carriers. A dog may see handing mail to a child as a threatening gesture.

These simple reminders and helpful tips can reduce the hazard of dog bite attacks. Help us to help you this spring and summer.

This is the first in a series of three columns by [City] Postmaster [Name] addressing the problem of dog attacks, both in the Postal Service and in the community. Next week: "Why Do Some Dogs Bite?"

#

Postmaster Column No. 2

"Why Do Some Dogs Bite?" By [Name], Postmaster [City]

Would your dog bite? The American Veterinary Medical Association estimates that more than 4.7 million dog bites are reported to local authorities each year. Countless more go unreported.

Dog bites can range from a relatively painless nip to a fatal mauling. Dog bite victims account for up to 5 percent of all hospital emergency room visits. Children are most often the victims. Dog attacks are the most commonly reported childhood public health problem in the United States.

You may feel confident that your dog won't add to these statistics, and it is probably true that your trusty companion will never seriously harm anyone. However, if your dog does attack or bite someone, you could be liable for the victim's pain, suffering, and medical expenses. Potential victims include your letter/rural carrier and neighborhood children. There are several ways you can avoid liability. Reducing the likelihood your dog will ever bite someone helps protect you, your canine companion, and everyone else in the community.

Why Do Some Dogs Bite?

Lack of socialization, improper training, excitement, and fear can all contribute to a dog attack. Even a nip on the leg is unacceptable behavior for a family dog.

Although dogs may bite for a variety of reasons, spaying or neutering has been shown to reduce aggressiveness. Bite statistics show that dogs that have not been spayed or neutered are up to three times more likely to be involved in a biting incident.

Three Suggestions to Help Take the Bite Out of Your Dog:

- Teach your dog appropriate behavior. Don't play aggressive games with your dog such as wrestling, tug of war, or siccing your dog on another person. It's essential that your dog recognize members of your family as dominant figures not to be challenged.
- Be a responsible pet owner. For everyone's safety, don't allow your dog to roam. Make your pet a member of your family. Dogs that spend too much time tethered to a dog house or in the back yard have a much greater chance of developing aggressive behavioral problems.

- Stay on the safe side. Help your dog become accustomed to a variety of situations. If you don't know how your dog will react to a new situation, be cautious. If you think your dog could panic in a crowd, leave him or her at home. If your dog may overreact to visitors or delivery people, keep him or her in another room.

This is the second in a series of three columns by [City] Postmaster [Name] addressing the problem of dog attacks, both in the Postal Service and in the community. Next week: "Protecting the Community."

#

Postmaster Column No. 3

"Protecting the Community," By [Name], Postmaster [City]

Last year, dog bites resulted in 3,000 OSHA-recordable injuries to carriers nationwide. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that nearly 2 percent of the American population is bitten by a dog each year, and most of the victims are children.

The most recent statistics from the 2007 *U.S. Pet Ownership and Demographic Sourcebook* states that there are 72,114,000 dogs in the United States; 43,021,000 households own dogs in the U.S., and that equates to 37.2 percent of households.

Clearly, parents must never leave a defenseless infant with a dog and must make sure that older children know the potential danger of dog bites. It is also important to know that studies have shown that dogs are three times more likely to be involved in a biting incident if they have not been spayed or neutered.

To learn more about the importance of neutering or spaying your pets, visit the American Partnership for Pets (APP), an unprecedented coalition of more than 25 leading and influential animal health and welfare organizations, community animal care and control services, and veterinarians at www.americanpartnershipforpets.org.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has found that the breed of animal most commonly involved in dog attacks can change from year to year and from one part of the country to another, depending on the popularity of the breed. According to the HSUS, while some breeds are more likely to bite, other factors like whether the animal has been spayed or neutered, and whether the animal has been properly socialized, safely confined, properly supervised, and humanely trained play great roles in a dog's tendency to bite. Dog owners can prevent serious injuries to others by realizing their important role in dog bite prevention.

This concludes a series of three columns by [City] Postmaster [Name] addressing the problem of dog attacks, both in the Postal Service and in the community.

#

Postmaster Speech

Dog Bite Prevention Speech for School Children

[Make the presentation light and fun. Even though this is a serious subject, children will respond to your being friendly and approachable. Be sure to tell the children what a postmaster is/does.]

Good morning boys and girls.

My name is [Name] and I'm your postmaster.

[Tell the children what a postmaster is/does.]

How many of you have dogs at home or have friends who own a dog? **[Listen to responses.]** Have you or any of your friends ever been bitten by a dog? **[Listen to responses, and if so, add comment: "Well, I'll bet you didn't like it, did you?"]**

At the Post Office where I work, the people who deliver your mail get bitten, too. Sometimes they have to go to the hospital and can't do their job for a long time. The dog's owner may have to pay a big hospital bill, and the mail may not be delivered to that house until the owners promise to keep the dog fenced in.

I don't want anybody at work to be bitten, and I don't want any of you to get bitten, either. That's why I'm here today, because I need your help.

First, I want all of you to be safe. Do you know how many people get bitten by dogs every year? **[Children guess.]** I heard some good guesses. The correct answer is 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year and guess what? The number one victim is children. That means you! More than 2 million children were bitten — and that's not good.

Who did the biting? In fact, the bites usually come from the family pet or from a dog owned by a nearby neighbor. Can you believe it?

There are several things you can do to help out. Be nice to your dog and to all dogs. Don't tease them. Don't play too rough with them. Instead, teach your dog good manners. A trained dog is a happy dog. Remember to give dogs space when they are eating, sleeping, tired, sick, or caring for puppies. Remember: Dogs get cranky just like people, and they may bite if they are suddenly surprised or hurt. If you see a dog running loose in your neighborhood, tell your parents. Never, ever approach a strange dog.

You can also help your letter carrier, because thousands of letter carriers get bitten every year, too. The most important thing is to stop your dog from getting outside and running loose. When you go outside, make sure to close the door tight, and when you are playing with your dog in the yard, make sure you close the gate so he does not get out.

When you see the letter carrier coming down your street, look around and make sure your dog is either inside or securely fenced away from the mailbox.

When the letter carrier gets to your house, let him or her put the mail in your mailbox. Never reach out to take the mail yourself, because your dog might think the letter carrier is a threat to you even though we know that isn't true.

After the letter carrier has delivered the mail and gone, you still need to watch out for loose dogs. Never step too close to a strange dog. Even if he looks friendly, he might still bite.

I am going to give each of you a list of things you can do to help keep dogs from biting your letter carrier, your friends, and yourself. I want you to take this list home and talk to your parents about it. See if they will help you keep your dog from getting outside.

If you do that, your letter carrier won't have to worry about going to the hospital for a dog bite, and we can ensure that everyone's mail is safely and quickly delivered.

Most importantly, we want you to be safe. So please remember to take care of your dog and use good safety habits even around dogs you know. Don't be one of those 2 million children who experience the pain of a dog bite.

Thank you.

V. Information for All Employees

Service Talk

Dog Bite Prevention Tips for Mail Carriers and Children — How You Can Help Prevent Dog Bites

To help make your neighborhood safe for the carrier, yourself, and other people, just remember these simple rules:

1. Find out what time the carrier usually brings your mail.
2. When the carrier is due to visit your house, check to be sure your dog is inside. Keep the dog inside until the letter carrier is gone.
3. If someone needs to open the door to sign for a letter, first put the dog in another room and close the door.
4. If you have a mail slot, keep your dog away from the slot so the carrier's fingers don't get bitten.
5. If your mailbox is inside your fenced yard, and your dog is too, keep the dog on a leash away from the mailbox during the time your letter carrier delivers the mail.
6. When your dog is outside, never walk up to the letter carrier and ask for your mail. Your dog may think you are being threatened.
7. If you see a dog running loose in your neighborhood, tell your parents or report it to the proper authorities.
8. Never, ever approach a strange dog. Remember: no owner, no petting. Only approach a dog that is on a leash with his owner, and follow the steps of WAIT, as described here.
9. When a strange dog comes near you, be BORING! Stand like a tree, or if you are on the ground, curl up your legs, cup your hands over your ears and lay still like a rock!
10. Don't go near a dog that is in a car, behind a fence, or tied up — even if you know him.

Below is a story from a young girl who shares her experience with others:

Kely Voigt of Palatine, Illinois, tells it better than anyone. In 1999, Kelly, then seven, was bitten by a neighborhood dog. The attack left Kelly with approximately 100 stitches in her face and a fear of being outdoors. This brutal attack caused so much pain and suffering that a few months later she was treated by a psychologist for post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

This young girl gained national attention after taking advice from her psychologist to use her experience to help others. Kelly started a nonprofit organization called Prevent the Bite with her mother, Kathy, and Nancy Skeffington, a school psychologist and animal-assisted therapist, and is using her experience to educate other children and adults on how to avoid such brutal attacks.

Part of their program includes the acronym WAIT, which is used to pet a dog on a leash with his owner. WAIT stands for:

- W – Wait to see if the dog looks friendly. If the dog looks afraid or angry, STOP and walk away slowly.
- A – Ask the owner for permission to pet the dog. If the owner says no, STOP and walk away slowly.
- I – Invite the dog to come to you to sniff you. Put your hand to your side with your fingers curled in. Stand slightly sideways and dip your head down so you are not looking directly at the dog. If the dog does not come over to sniff you, STOP and do not touch him.
- T – Touch the dog gently to pet, and do so away from the head and tail.

The diagram below includes Kelly's message and safety tips. For additional information on Prevent the Bite and efforts to help others, visit www.preventthebite.org.



VI. For Postal Managers

Progressive Warning Letters and Thank You Letter

This section offers materials for you to use to help your letter carriers do their jobs more safely. You can use the progressive warning letters to alert dog owners to the possible loss of mail delivery if they do not restrain their pets. Additionally, don't forget to send a letter of thanks when they do!

Warning letters, like collection letters, need to be handled tactfully. The first and second sample letters on the website tell customers what we want them to do. The third tells them we have taken corrective steps. The fourth and fifth letters detail the customers' options. In using these letters, keep in mind that our purpose is not to police the neighborhood but to obtain a safe environment in which carriers can do their work. Though most customers will respond to your first polite request, be meticulous in following up if they don't. Otherwise, your efforts will not be taken seriously.

Samples of these letters can be found on the website at <http://safetytoolkit.usps.gov/Resources>:

- In the left sidebar, click *Safety Programs*.
- In the right sidebar, under "Safety Programs Resources," click *Accident Reduction Center*.
- On the Accident Reduction Center page, click *ARC — Dog Bite Prevention and Awareness Publicity Information*.
- Under "Resources for Postmasters," under "Working with the Community," select the appropriate letter.

Nondelivery of Mail Policy

The availability and use of the repellent does *not* replace the policy of nondelivery of mail where there is animal interference!

Collection and delivery service personnel are to report the name and address of the customer where such interference occurs to the postmaster or authorized supervisor who must immediately telephone the customer and request that the animal be confined during the usual delivery hours in the neighborhood. The postmaster or authorized supervisor must further inform the customer that (1) no deliveries will be made until this is done, and (2) service will be restored upon assurance that the animal will be confined.

Dog Owner's Responsibility

It is the dog owner's responsibility to control the dog. Most communities have ordinances for the control of dogs. In spite of the fact that postmasters have frequently requested customers to control their dogs, and have discontinued service to control this problem, injuries still continue.

VII. Additional Resources

Now that you have read through this publicity kit and made some decisions about what would work best in your area, *it is time for action.*

In addition to this kit and materials available online, a number of resources are available to assist you in your effort to educate employees, your customers, and the entire community about the importance of dog bite prevention. If you have media or public relations questions, area Public Affairs and Communications managers can put you in touch with your local communications person. While the Humane Society of America is not an official partner during this year's National Dog Bite Prevention Week campaign, it is always willing to help organizations that are promoting safety around animals. Their dog bite prevention website, www.nodogbites.org, is an excellent resource for employees and your community.

Dog bites are no laughing matter! We must take action now to reduce these costly and painful injuries. Remember to stay alert! Don't be fooled by, "My dog won't bite!"

Area Corporate Communications Managers

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Telephone: 303-313-5130

Partnering Organizations

The following is a list of contacts. These organizations can help you obtain local support and find animal behavior experts for local events.

Sharon Curtis Granskog
American Veterinary Medical Association Headquarters
1931 N. Meacham Rd., Ste. 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Telephone: 847-925-8070 ext. 6619
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Government Relations Representatives

Your Government Relations representatives are here to serve you. They can assist you in contacting and inviting elected officials to participate in your event — please let them know.

Alphabetical State/Representative Listing

Area code and prefix for all extensions is 202-268-XXXX

State	Government Relations Representative	Phone Number
Alabama	Laurie Solnik	3743
Alaska	Linda Macasa	3750
Amer Samoa	Linda Macasa	3750
Arizona	Mico Milanovic	7217
Arkansas	Polly Gibbs	4387
California	Linda Macasa	3750
Connecticut	Jo Waterman	6748
Colorado	Mico Milanovic	7217
Delaware	Jo Waterman	6748
DC	Jim Cari	6029
Florida	Laurie Solnik	3743
Georgia	Sandra Calos	8657
Guam	Linda Macasa	3750
Hawaii	Linda Macasa	3750
Idaho	Linda Macasa	3750
Illinois	Talaya Simpson	7839
Indiana	Sheryl Bonifer	7505
Iowa	Sheryl Bonifer	7505
Kansas	Mico Milanovic	7217
Kentucky	Laurie Solnik	3743
Louisiana	Polly Gibbs	4387
Maine	Kathy Sitterle	6027
Maryland	Jim Cari	6029
Massachusetts	Jo Waterman	6748
Michigan	Talaya Simpson	7839
Minnesota	Sheryl Bonifer	7505
Mississippi	Laurie Solnik	3743
Missouri	Sheryl Bonifer	7505
Montana	Linda Macasa	3750
Nebraska	Mico Milanovic	7217
Nevada	Linda Macasa	3750
New Hampshire	Jo Waterman	6748
New Jersey	Jo Waterman	6748
New Mexico	Mico Milanovic	7217
New York	Kathy Sitterle	6027
North Carolina	Sandra Calos	8657
North Dakota	Sheryl Bonifer	7505
Ohio	Jim Cari	6029
Oklahoma	Polly Gibbs	4387
Oregon	Linda Macasa	3750
Pennsylvania	Laurie Solnik	3743
Puerto Rico	Kathy Sitterle	6027
Rhode Island	Jo Waterman	6748
South Carolina	Sandra Calos	8657
South Dakota	Sheryl Bonifer	7505
Tennessee	Sandra Calos	8657
Texas	Polly Gibbs	4387
Utah	Mico Milanovic	7217
Vermont	Kathy Sitterle	6027
Virgin Islands	Kathy Sitterle	6027
Virginia	Jim Cari	6029
Washington	Linda Macasa	3750
West Virginia	Jim Cari	6029
Wisconsin	Talaya Simpson	7839
Wyoming	Mico Milanovic	7217

More Resources

- PS Form 1778, *Dog Warning Card*
<http://blue.usps.gov/formmgmt/forms/ps1778.pdf>
- Publication 129, *Safety Talks*
<http://blue.usps.gov/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub129.pdf>
- Safety film, *Dogs, They Come in All Sizes*.
Contact your manager, training (district) for availability.
- Publication 174, *How to Avoid Dogs Bites; Dogs and Dog Repellent*
<http://blue.usps.gov/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub174.pdf>
- Dog training video, *Understanding Canine Behavior*.
Contact your manager, training (district) for availability.

For more information, see the Dog Bite Prevention and Publicity website at <http://safetytoolkit.usps.gov/Resources>.

- In the left sidebar, click *Safety Programs*.
- In the right sidebar, under "Safety Programs Resources," click *Accident Reduction Center*.
- On the Accident Reduction Center page, click *ARC — Dog Bite Prevention and Awareness Publicity Information*.

The following is a list of all the files you can find there:

Safety Information for Carriers

- General Safety Tips.
- JSA — Confronting a Dog Attack.
- Stay Alert — Don't be Fooled by My Dog Won't Bite.
- MSDS for Back-Off Dog Repellent 2.7.08.
- Using Dog Repellent — Questions and Answers.

Safety Tips for the Public

- Safety Tips for Parents.
- Dog Bite Prevention Tips for Children.

Resources for Postmasters

- Safety Talks.
 - Dog Awareness.
 - Proper Use of Dog Repellent Spray.
 - Be Safe Around Dogs.
 - True or False Quiz: Are You an Unwary Visitor?

- Working with the Community.
 - Working with Community Leaders.
 - Getting Community Involvement.
 - Sample Customer Thank You Letter.
 - Sample Warning Letter No 1.
 - Sample Warning Letter No 2.
 - Sample Warning Letter No 3.
 - Sample Warning Letter No 4.
 - Postmaster Speech — Dog Bite Prevention for School Children.
 - Poster Contest for School Children.
- Working with the Media.
 - Building Community Awareness through Media Attention.
 - Public Service Announcements — Dog Bite Prevention Week.
 - An Employee Event the Media Will Love.
 - Media Advisory.
 - News Release — A Different Kind of Chorus.
 - Postmaster Newspaper Column No 1.
 - Postmaster Newspaper Column No 2.
 - Postmaster Newspaper Column No 3.

Additional Resources

- Additional Resources — Dog Bite Prevention.

— *Community Relations,
Corporate Communications, 5-7-09*