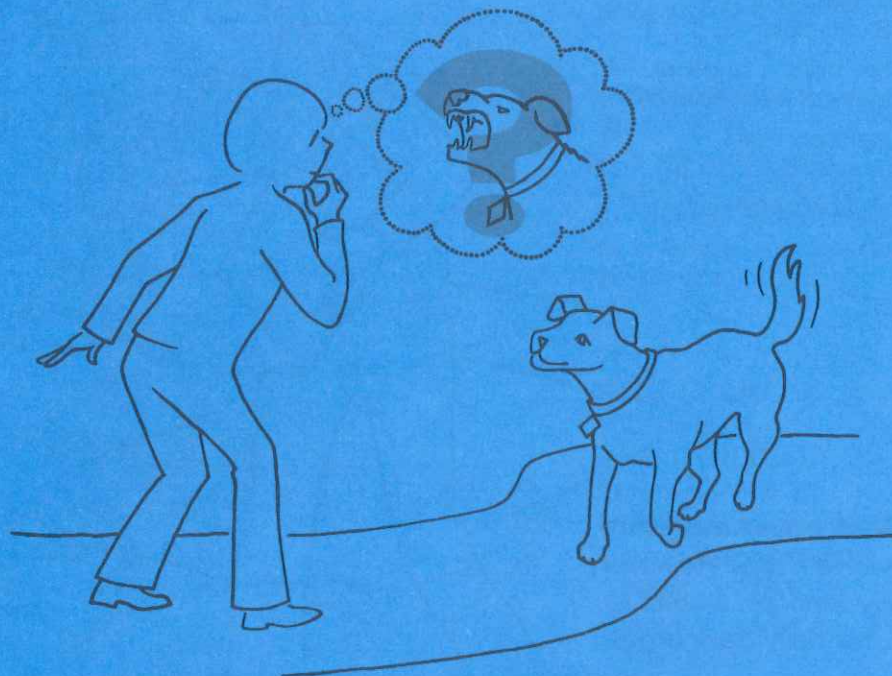


# STAY SAFE AROUND ANIMALS



# STAYING SAFE AROUND ANIMALS

means not taking chances with unfamiliar or unfriendly animals.

## MOST ANIMALS SEEM FRIENDLY AND HARMLESS

Yet, every year in the U.S., animals:

- bite millions of people—many of them children
- seriously injure thousands of people
- kill about 100 people.

Most biting incidents involve dogs. However, any kind of animal is potentially dangerous.

### Please read:

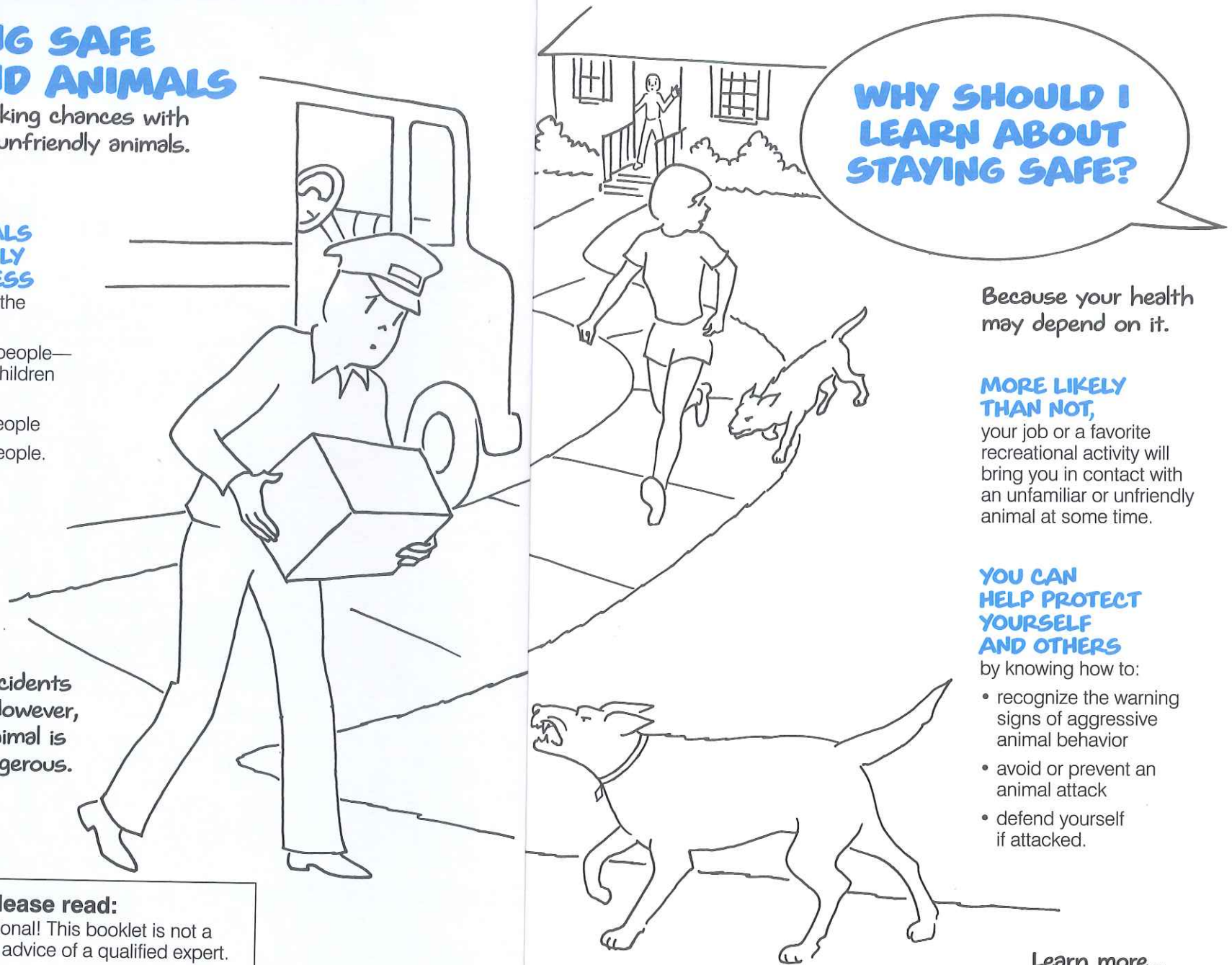
Talk to a professional! This booklet is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified expert.

#### 2017 Edition

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WHY SHOULD I  
LEARN ABOUT  
STAYING SAFE?

Because your health may depend on it.

## MORE LIKELY THAN NOT,

your job or a favorite recreational activity will bring you in contact with an unfamiliar or unfriendly animal at some time.

## YOU CAN HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

by knowing how to:

- recognize the warning signs of aggressive animal behavior
- avoid or prevent an animal attack
- defend yourself if attacked.

Learn more...

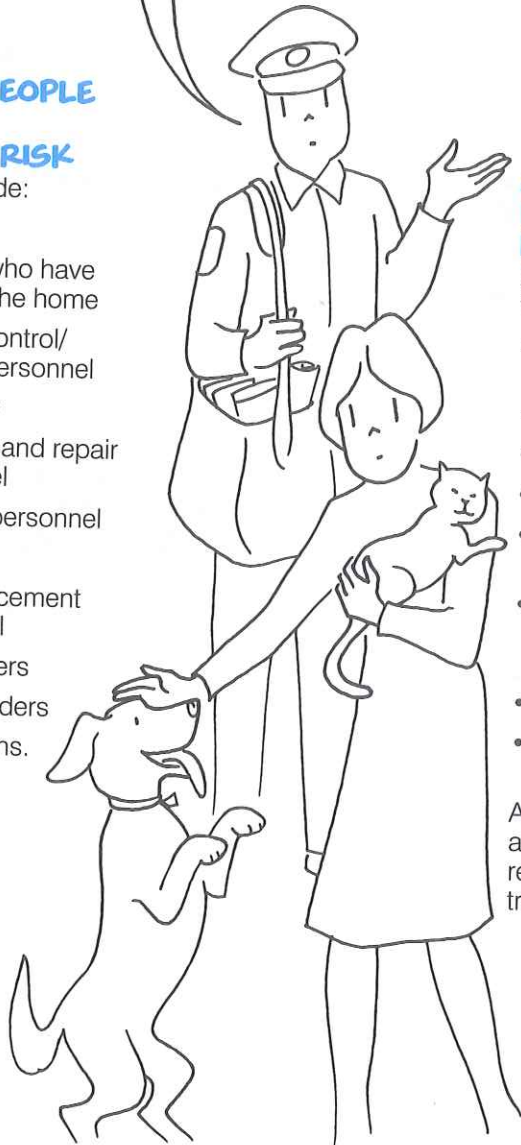
## WHO'S AT RISK OF BEING ATTACKED BY AN ANIMAL?

Almost everyone, at one time or another.

### SOME PEOPLE ARE AT HIGHER RISK

They include:

- children
- people who have a pet in the home
- animal control/shelter personnel
- bicyclists
- cable TV and repair personnel
- delivery personnel
- joggers
- law enforcement personnel
- mail carriers
- meter readers
- pedestrians.



### ANIMALS ATTACK FOR DIFFERENT REASONS

Animals may attack if they are:

- protecting offspring, territory or children
- threatened
- in pain, injured or ill
- surprised
- bothered while eating or sleeping
- frustrated (from being chained or tied up, for example)
- teased
- excited, nervous or "playing."

An animal may also attack for no apparent reason, or if bred and trained to be vicious.

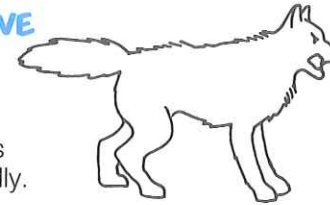
## HOW CAN I TELL IF AN ANIMAL IS DANGEROUS?

In most cases, there are warning signs.

With a dog, for example, be especially alert for:

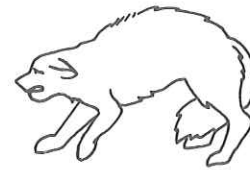
### AN AGGRESSIVE POSTURE

The ears are erect, the body is stiff or tense, and the tail is stiff or moving rapidly.



### A FEARFUL POSTURE

The ears are back, the body is crouched with the head down, and the tail hangs down or is tucked between the legs.



### OTHER SIGNS

Watch for:

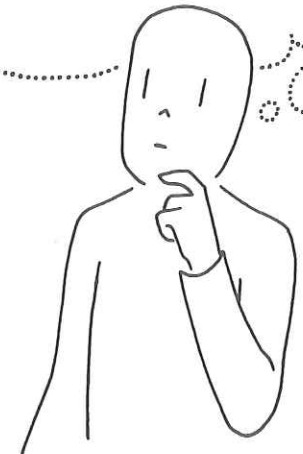
- growling, snarling or snapping
- bared teeth or curled lips
- hair standing on end.

A wagging tail is not necessarily a sign that a dog is friendly.

### BE AWARE OF ANY UNUSUAL OR STRANGE BEHAVIOR

With any unfamiliar animal, pay special attention to:

- behavior
- body posture
- hair
- mouth and teeth
- noises
- tail.



# TAKE STEPS TO AVOID TROUBLE

## DON'T GO INTO YARDS OR HOMES

until you're sure all pets have been properly restrained. Follow your employer's guidelines.



## CALL AHEAD TO HOMES,

if possible, and ask the owners to restrain their pets—in a pen or closed room, or chained outside.



## NEVER APPROACH OR TOUCH

an unfamiliar or unfriendly animal. Never tease or threaten any animal. Remember, even small pets can cause serious injury.



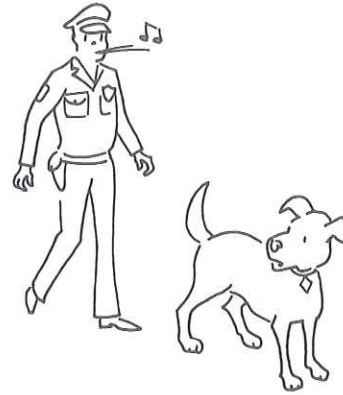
## LOOK FOR SIGNS THAT AN ANIMAL IS AROUND

—a warning sticker on the mailbox, a food or water dish, a doghouse, etc.



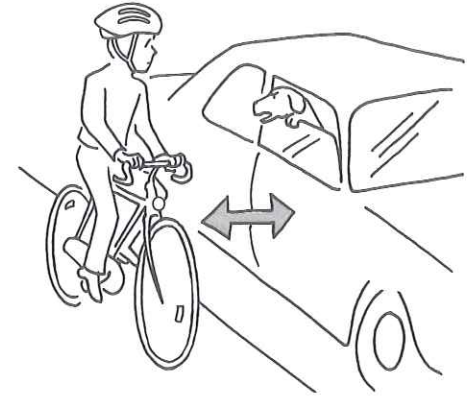
## DON'T SURPRISE A DOG

—as you near, talk softly, make a soft noise, whistle, etc.



## KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM SHRUBS,

parked cars and other places where an animal may hide or sleep.



## CHOOSE A SAFE ROUTE

if you jog, walk or bike. Avoid homes and neighborhoods where animals are known to roam freely.



## STAY AWAY FROM STRAY DOGS AND DOG PACKS

—and places where they're likely to be found (such as abandoned buildings or back alleys).



Contact the animal control, police or sheriff's department if you spot any stray animals or dog packs.

# PREVENT ANIMAL ATTACKS WHILE YOU WORK

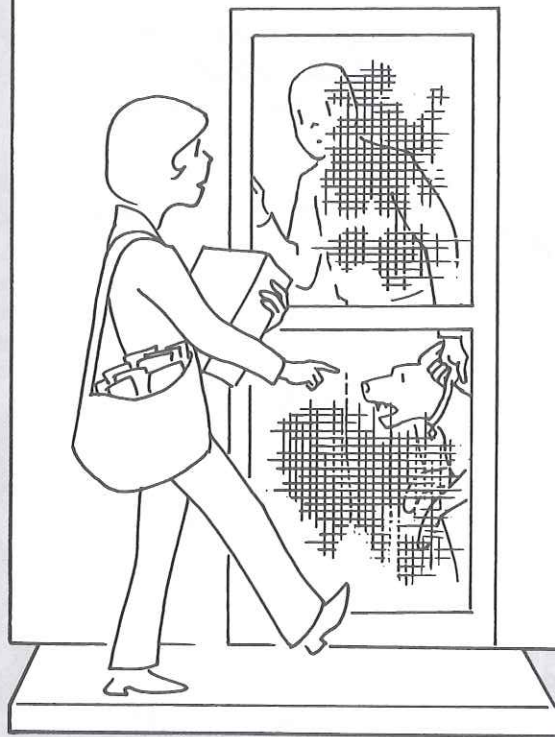
When you're at someone's door:

## STAY ALERT

—an animal may suddenly appear from another part of the house.

## PROTECT YOURSELF,

using your bag, a package, a clipboard, etc., as a shield. Always keep it between you and the animal.



## POLITELY ASK THE OWNER

to properly restrain all pets if you need to open the door. (Having the owner hold the pet isn't safe.)

## TALK TO OWNERS IN A FRIENDLY VOICE

—don't be abusive or threatening. An angry voice may provoke an angry pet.

## KEEP ONE FOOT ON THE OUTSIDE DOOR

at all times so you can shut it quickly, in case a pet suddenly appears.

## DON'T REMOVE YOUR FOOT FROM THE DOOR

until all pets have been properly restrained. Explain that this is a routine safety practice.

When you're working inside someone's home:

## REMAIN CAUTIOUS

and alert once you enter the home and begin work. A pet may escape and pay you a surprise visit.

## DON'T ATTEMPT TO WORK INSIDE

(or make a delivery) until all pets have been properly restrained.

## CALL FOR THE OWNER

if a pet does escape. Stop working and stay calm. Face the pet and talk softly (but don't reach out to it).



Always follow your employer's guidelines, and report any problems promptly.

# KNOW HOW TO

## IF YOU'RE THREATENED:

### STAY CALM AND AS STILL AS POSSIBLE

Make any movements smoothly and slowly. Avoid nervous or jerky movements.

### FACE THE ANIMAL

Never run or turn your back.

### SHIELD YOURSELF

Hold your bag, a clipboard or a package in front of you.

### DON'T MAKE LOUD OR THREATENING NOISES

Avoid threatening gestures, too.

### DON'T LOOK DIRECTLY INTO A DOG'S EYES

Look just over the dog's head.

### SLOWLY BACK OUT OF THE AREA

If possible, wait until the animal loses interest. Keep facing the animal.

### GIVE FIRM, SIMPLE COMMANDS

For example, say:

- no
- stay
- down
- go home.

Use the animal's name if you know it.

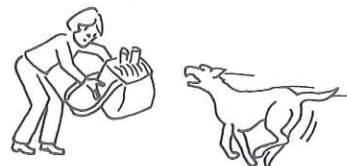


# PROTECT YOURSELF

## IF YOU'RE ATTACKED:

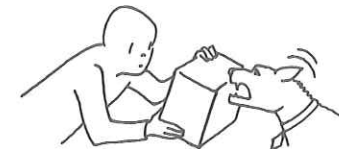
### HOLD YOUR GROUND

Don't turn your back or try to run away. Try to keep the animal in front of you.



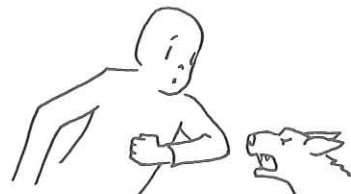
### LET THE ANIMAL BITE YOUR SHIELD

Always try to keep something between yourself and the animal.



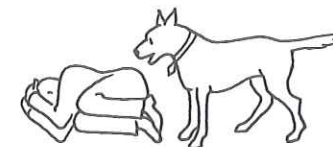
### USE YOUR ARM IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SHIELD

Wrap it in something like a jacket, if possible. Keep your fist clenched. Use your left arm if you are right-handed and vice versa.



### CURL UP INTO A BALL IF YOU'RE KNOCKED DOWN

Cover your head and neck with your arms. An attacking animal may lose interest if you "play dead."



### ONLY USE SELF-DEFENSE SPRAY IF ALLOWED AND AS A LAST RESORT

You could miss, spray yourself or make the animal angrier. Do not use a spray if other people are nearby. Know and follow any local laws or other restrictions about using or carrying the spray.



Promptly report all incidents to your supervisor and the animal control, police or sheriff's department.

# KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE BITTEN OR SCRATCHED

Any bite or scratch that breaks the skin can cause infection.

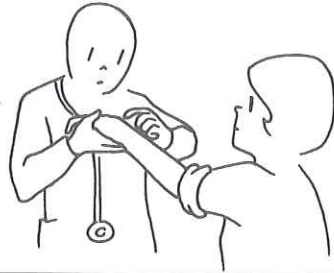
## 1 WASH THE WOUND RIGHT AWAY

- Clean it gently and thoroughly with mild soap and water.
- Apply a sterile bandage.
- Avoid moving the affected limb if possible.



## 2 SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL HELP

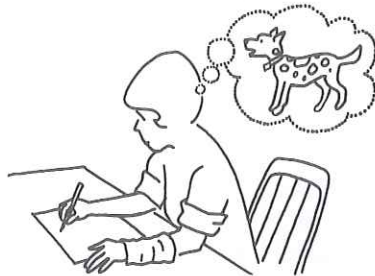
Explain exactly what happened, including whether the animal was wild or stray. Ask the health-care provider about a tetanus booster and/or rabies vaccination.



## 3 REMEMBER AS MANY DETAILS AS POSSIBLE

Write down:

- a description of the animal (breed, color, size, collar, etc.)
- the time and location of the incident.



## 4 REPORT ALL INCIDENTS TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES

Contact the animal control, police or sheriff's department, and your local health department. The animal may have to be quarantined.

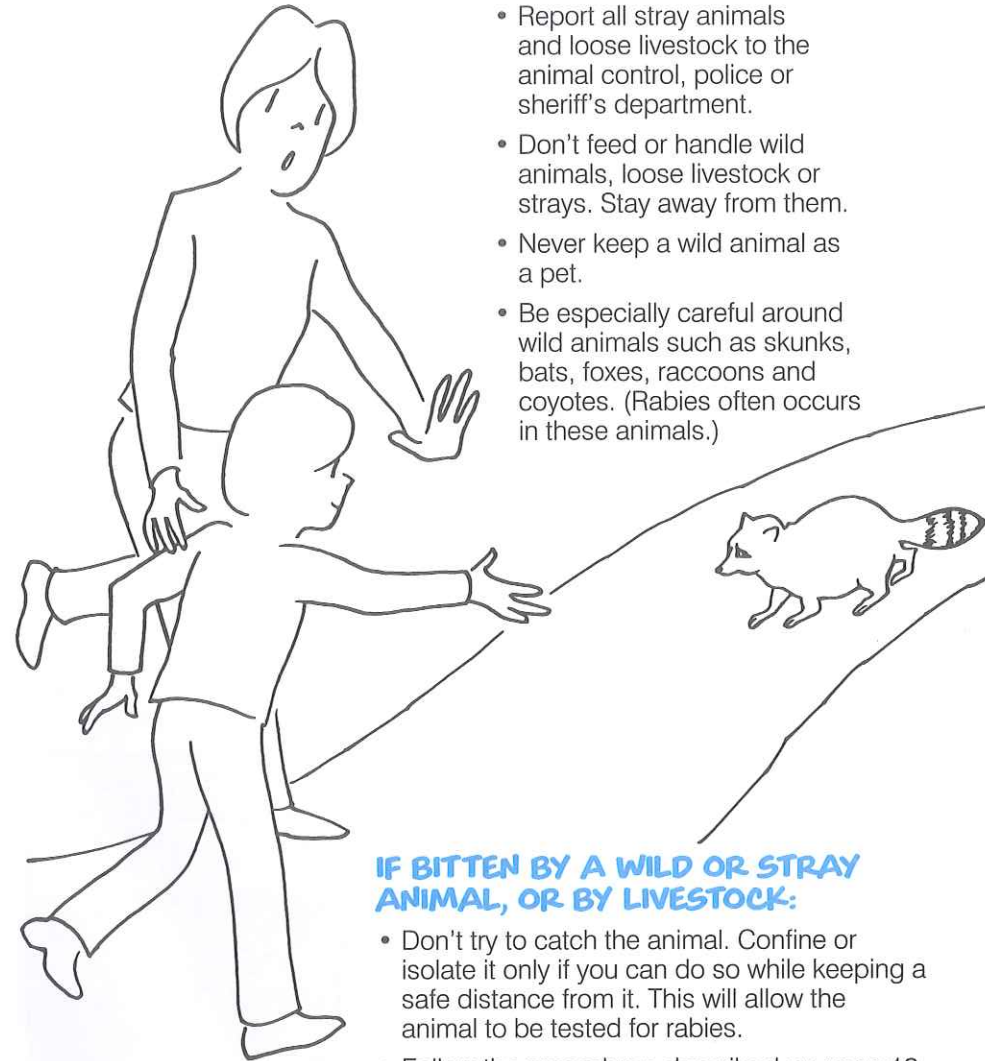


# HELP PREVENT RABIES

Although rabies is no longer common in humans, several cases occur in the U.S. each year. Any mammal—not just dogs—can spread this disease.

## FOLLOW THESE SAFETY TIPS:

- Report all stray animals and loose livestock to the animal control, police or sheriff's department.
- Don't feed or handle wild animals, loose livestock or strays. Stay away from them.
- Never keep a wild animal as a pet.
- Be especially careful around wild animals such as skunks, bats, foxes, raccoons and coyotes. (Rabies often occurs in these animals.)



## IF BITTEN BY A WILD OR STRAY ANIMAL, OR BY LIVESTOCK:

- Don't try to catch the animal. Confine or isolate it only if you can do so while keeping a safe distance from it. This will allow the animal to be tested for rabies.
- Follow the procedures described on page 12.

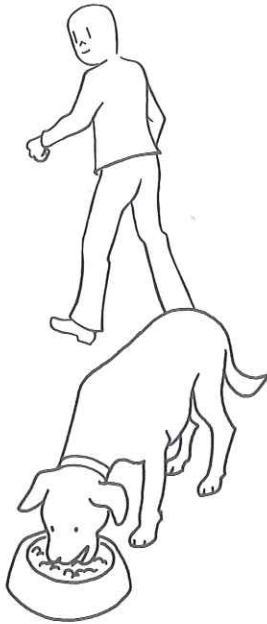
## MORE SAFETY TIPS

### ALWAYS INFORM CO-WORKERS

and substitute workers of any animal problems you have encountered.



### NEVER APPROACH AN ANIMAL THAT'S EATING, sleeping or with offspring.



### SUPPORT ANIMAL CONTROL EFFORTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY,

especially spaying and neutering programs. These programs help protect the health and safety of your community.



### BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER:

- Always obey leash and licensing laws.
- Be sure your pet is trained and spayed or neutered.
- Take your pet to the veterinarian for regular checkups and shots.
- Keep your pet away from strays and wildlife.



So—

## STAY SAFE AROUND ANIMALS!

✓ **BE ALERT**  
for animals, especially dogs.

✓ **SEEK**  
immediate medical help if bitten or scratched.

✓ **KNOW**  
how to protect yourself.

✓ **REPORT**  
all incidents to the animal control, police or sheriff's department, and your supervisor.



**Don't take chances with animals!**