



## How Baby Meets His/Her Pet...

If you already have a pet, there are things you can do to make the addition of a new baby more pleasant for your pet and your family.

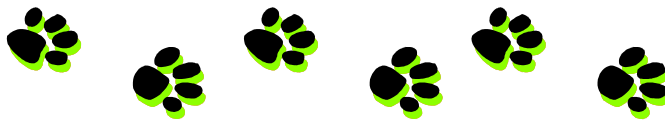
- Before taking the baby home from the hospital, the baby's blanket should be brought home for your pet to sniff. This lets your pet get used to the baby's scent.
- Once home, *under close supervision*, allow your pet to sniff the new baby.
- Your pet may feel jealous about the newcomer and may need reassurance.
- Take time to give your pet attention.
- Always closely supervise your pet around your infant or toddler.



## PROTECT YOUR PET FROM RABIES

Your dog or cat can be vaccinated for rabies when it turns 3 months of age. One year after the first dose, your pet requires a booster, which is then good for three years. For the rest of your pet's life, it should have a booster shot every three years.

To print additional copies of this brochure, go to:  
[www.clintonhealth.org](http://www.clintonhealth.org)

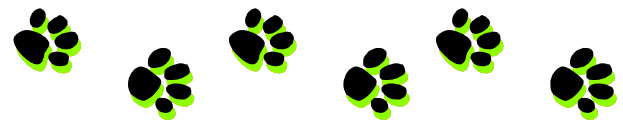


## About Pets...

- Select a dog carefully.
- Neuter a dog, as early as possible, to reduce aggressive behavior.
- Never leave babies and young children alone with any animal.
- Help your puppy to be calm and well behaved by teaching such behaviors as rolling over to show their stomach, allowing food to be taken away without growling.
- Don't play aggressive games with your dog such as wrestling or "sicking".
- Cat scratches can be serious; watch for infection.
- Keep your pets safe on a leash or in your yard.



For more information, please contact the  
Clinton County Health Department  
133 Margaret Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
(518) 565-4870 Telephone  
(518) 565-4843 Fax  
[www.clintonhealth.org](http://www.clintonhealth.org)



# PREVENTING DOG BITES IN CHILDREN



In Clinton County, hundreds of children are bitten every year...

Most of these bites are preventable.



## Know How to:

- **RECOGNIZE** the warning signs of aggressive animals.
- **AVOID** or **PREVENT** an animal attack.
- **DEFEND** yourself, or your child, from an aggressive dog.

## Reasons Why Dogs May Attack

They may be:

- Protecting their puppies, territory, or family members
- Feeling threatened by you
- In pain, injured or ill
- Surprised by your sudden appearance
- Bothered while eating
- Frustrated from being chained or tied
- Excited, nervous or "playing"
- Old and don't like to be bothered

Animals may attack for no reason at all, or if they have been trained to attack.

**Remember, any size or breed of dog can bite!!!!**

## Know The Warning Signs of an Animal Who Feels Threatened

- **An aggressive posture:** The ears are erect, the body is stiff or tense, and the tail is stiff or moving fast.
- **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.
- **Growling**, snarling or snapping
- **Staring** straight ahead
- **Teeth** showing or curled lips
- **Hair** standing on end



## Teach your child to:

- Never approach a dog that you do not know or the owner is not with the dog.
- Only play with a dog when a parent or an adult is nearby and only after getting the dog owner's permission.
- Tell their parent (s) or an adult when they see a stray or unfamiliar dog.
- Stand still when approached by a strange dog.
- Not bother dogs that are sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.

## More Teaching...

### IF THREATENED OR ATTACKED:

- Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- Never run or scream. Slowly walk away sideways.
- If attacked, curl up in a ball on the ground, stay still and protect your face.
- Tell an adult immediately.
- Try to remember:
  - if the dog had a collar or tag.
  - type, size, and color of dog.
  - where the dog ran.
- Wash any wound with soap and water.



**FOR  
MOM &  
DAD**

- See your child's doctor at once if your child has been attacked.
- Report any animal attack to the Clinton County Health Department at 565-4870.

