

# Children & Animal Bites



Pets and children seem like a natural combination - until one oversteps the other's boundaries. Take note of the following to promote household harmony:

- Never leave infants or toddlers alone with a family pet.
- Don't keep undomesticated animals (ferrets, for example, like to bite) as house pets.
- When choosing a family pet, look for one with a calm disposition. For example, some dog breeds tolerate children better than others; research breeds to find one that is appropriate for your family. There are even Web sites now that help you match family characteristics with the best breed of dog.
- Children under 4 years should be supervised when playing with a dog or cat.
- Teach children never to tease an animal, pull its tail or ears, or bother it while it is eating or sleeping. Children should always stay away from pets with their young.
- Children should be taught never to take a toy or bone away from a dog.
- Teach children never to pet or try to play with an animal that they don't know.