



Weekly Safety Tip

SCI Safety Slogan

Don't wake a lying dog!

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Of the Week

Wagging Tails of Friendly Dogs, Keeping children Safe Around Man's Best Friend

Man and woman's best friend bites more than 4.7 million people a year, and key experts believe that public education can help prevent these bites.



Animal Safety Tips

Infants and children less than 5 years old are more likely than most people to get diseases from animals. This is because young children often touch surfaces that may be contaminated with animal feces (stool), and young children like to put their hands in their mouths.

Young children are less likely than others to wash their hands well. Objects such as pacifiers may fall to dirty surfaces and then be placed in an infant's mouth. For some animal diseases, young children are more likely than others to get very sick.

Tips to protect infants and young children from getting sick while handling animals:

- Children younger than 5 years old should be supervised while interacting with animals.
- Children should not be allowed to kiss pets or to put their hands or other objects into their mouths after handling animals.
- Children's hands should be washed thoroughly with running water and soap after contact with animals.
- Hand washing prior to breast-feeding or preparation of formula is strongly recommended. *Source: www.cdc.gov/healthypets/child.htm*

Dogs can make great Christmas gifts... But here are a few things to consider before purchasing.

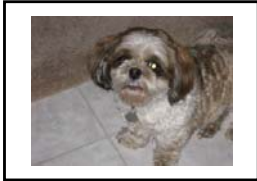
Things to Consider Before You Get a Dog

- Consult with a professional (e.g., veterinarian, animal behaviorist, or responsible breeder) to learn about suitable breeds of dogs for your household.
- Dogs with histories of aggression are inappropriate in households with children.
- Be sensitive to cues that a child is fearful or apprehensive about a dog and, if so, delay acquiring a dog.
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it. Use caution when bringing a dog into the home of an infant or toddler.
- Spay/neuter virtually all dogs (this frequently reduces aggressive tendencies).
- Never leave infants or young children alone with any dog.

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Some breeds are more aggressive. Research the breeds and make the right choice for your household.



While visiting friends and relatives with dogs always remember to let the dog get familiar with you before attempting to pet the dog. Even the little cute furry friend can get snippy at times.

- Do not play aggressive games with your dog (e.g., wrestling).
- Properly socialize and train any dog entering the household. Teach the dog submissive behaviors (e.g., rolling over to expose abdomen and relinquishing food without growling).
- Immediately seek professional advice (e.g., from veterinarians, animal behaviorists, or responsible breeders) if the dog develops aggressive or undesirable behaviors.

Preventing Dog Bites

Teach children basic safety around dogs and review regularly:

- Do not approach an unfamiliar dog.
- Do not run from a dog and scream.
- Remain motionless (e.g., "be still like a tree") when approached by an unfamiliar dog.
- If knocked over by a dog, roll into a ball and lie still (e.g., "be still like a log").
- Do not play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- Immediately report stray dogs or dogs displaying unusual behavior to an adult.
- Avoid direct eye contact with a dog.
- Do not disturb a dog who is sleeping, eating, or caring for puppies.
- Do not pet a dog without allowing it to see and sniff you first.
- If bitten, immediately report the bite to an adult.

Source: www.cdc.gov/ncinc/duin/bitenrevention.htm

Survey: Total U.S. health benefit cost rose by 6.1 percent in 2007

Source: Kelleronline.com Published on 11/21/2007

Total U.S. health benefit cost rose by 6.1 percent in 2007, the same pace as last year, to an average of US\$7,983 per employee, according to the National Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Plans, conducted annually by Mercer. The good news is that cost increases have held steady for three years (after spiking to nearly 15 percent in 2002) and are likely to slow a bit further in 2008. The bad news is that's still more than twice the rate of inflation. Health cost growth is outpacing wages and material costs and eroding business profitability.

The Mercer survey also found that employers expect cost to rise 5.7 percent in 2008. That figure takes into account any changes that employers will make in the level of benefits, the type of plan offered, or the plan vendor. If employers made no changes, the cost of their largest medical plan would rise by about 8 percent, they predict.