



# Safety

## Tips

A five-minute training Series for Pest Management Professionals.

### Dog Bites



Thousands of dog bites occur in the US every year. Over this past year, dog bites to technicians in our PestSure Program accounted for 5% of our reported injuries with 29 of them being serious enough to require medical attention.

According to the US center for Disease Control most of these dog bites happen to pet owners and come from their own dog, their neighbor's dog, or another known dog. Most adults bitten by dogs are injured in the arms or legs. Your job puts you

at risk of being bitten because you are entering a dog's territory.

**Some dogs are more prone to bite than others. Here are some facts that will help you assess your risk:**

- Dogs trained and part of the social family setting tend to be calmer and less prone to snap and bite.
- Pure-breeds tend to be more highly strung and some tend to have more problems. Small dogs are often nipper.
- Un-spayed dogs tend to be more aggressive.

**When you visit a residence and encounter a dog, take these steps to protect yourself:**

- Ask the pet owner to place animals in a confined room or outdoor area that you won't be accessing.
- Avoid petting, touching or being playful when encountering dogs.
- If a dog seems menacing, don't challenge the animal, or holler or run. Calmly walk away.
- Don't assume a dog playing with its owner or children will behave in the same manner toward you. Remember you are a stranger in the dog's territory.
- Avoid surprising a dog or disturbing dogs that are sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- Avoid applying pesticides when pets are present.

Dog bites can be extremely painful and are very prone to infection. Should you be bitten on the job, report the injury to your company immediately.