

This Week's Learning Objective:

Dog Bite and other Animal Bite Prevention

Materials Needed for this Session:

A copy of PestSure Safety Tip "Dog Bites"; enough for each attendee.

A copy of the PestSure Safety Tip "Ticks"; enough for each attendee.

Leader Notes / Training Outline

1. **Review** the "Dog Bites" safety tip and specifically reiterate steps for bite prevention.
2. **Discuss** your company specific instructions for servicing an account where there is a threat.
3. **Review** the "Ticks" safety tip. Reiterate the steps for safe removal of ticks.
4. **Discuss** any questions/personal stories from attendees.
5. Open the discussion to the attendees. See Leader Tips below.

- _____
- _____
- _____



Leader Tips:

Announce the learning objective: Our objective today is _____

Explain to the group why this topic is being reviewed:

- Prevent you from being injured
- Prevent injury to others
- .

Ask the **group to discuss** the subject matter and give input by drawing from their work experiences:

- Attendee to relate a personal story involving this objective
- Attendee to share something learned on the job involving this objective
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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 settings 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 nipier.
- 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.

Ticks



Our work in pest management brings us in very close proximity to various pests. Go figure! Since ticks carry or transmit a whole host of diseases, it is best to attempt to avoid the potential by taking measures to prevent being bitten.

Precautions:

- If possible, avoid walking through long grass or weeds. Thick undergrowth in the woods is also an area where ticks dwell.
- If approved, use tick repellents or at least use an insect repellent that contains DEET.
- Wear long sleeves and pants and button up your shirt collar. Any access area such as cuffs can be taped and pants can be tucked into boots to deter ticks from crawling under your clothing.
- If you have been in a tick infested area, check the outside of your clothing immediately to spot any ticks.
- Once home, shower and inspect for any ticks that may have gotten under your clothing.

Tick Removal:

- Use blunt end tweezers to get as close to the tick head as possible and pull it off with gentle steady pressure. Don't twist or jerk.
- Don't handle the tick with your bare hands or crush the tick after removal. The bodily fluids in the tick can contain the disease organism.
- Wash your hands and the tick bite site after removal. Use an antiseptic on the bite area.

3 Common Tick Transmitted Diseases:

- **Lyme Disease** – spread by the black-legged tick and found mostly along the Atlantic seaboard, the Great Lakes, and in northern CA. Symptoms include the circular red rash at the bite site and flu-like symptoms.
- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever** – spread by a number of different ticks, this infectious disease is marked by a rash that resembles the measles accompanied by a high fever and severe headache.
- **Ehrlichiosis** – transmitted by the lonestar tick and the black-legged tick. Left untreated, this organism destroys white blood cells affecting your immune system. There have been a number of deaths from this disease.