

# Fearful Behavior

**Eyes:** Open wide (whale eyes); dilated pupils

**Ears:** sideways; flattened against head

**Mouth:** closed, rapid panting; displacement behaviors (yawning, licking lips, sneezing)

**Tail:** held low or between legs (may be wagging)

**Body posture:** weight will be held back; may retreat; may roll over on back

**If a dog is fearful:**

- Stop all movement immediately
- Do not corner or touch the dog
- Quietly talk to the dog
- Avoid eye contact
- Quietly and slowly leave with sideways posture



# If You are Knocked Down

- Place hands in fists around neck and head for protection
- Remain in defensive posture until dog goes away or you are rescued

# Respond Safely

**If you are bitten:**

- Call 911 and file a police report
- Seek medical attention and request documentation

**Mahalo!**

This education program has been made possible through the generous support of Larry and Patricia Rodriguez in memory of their dog, Mr. Bugs, who gave them years of joy, love and companionship—and chose his friends carefully.

# Mr. Bugs' Dog Bite Prevention Program



# Prevent Surprises

- Speak to the owner and ask if the dog has shown aggressive behavior
  - Ask that the dog is secured prior to entering
  - If the owner refuses, do not enter the space
- Bring a barrier, such as a clipboard or satchel
- Bring a humane deterrent
  - Deterrents can be effective, but may not stop all animals
  - Citronella, air horns and compressed air make great deterrents



# Arriving to the Premises

**Before you approach:**

- Check your surroundings
- Check for loose dogs
- Make noise
- Do not wear sunglasses
- Do not wear headphones

**If a dog is present:**

- Do not make sudden movements
- If owner is close, ask that the dog is secured prior to entering the space
- If the owner refuses, return with a humane deterrent or call Hawaiian Humane at 808-356-2250

# Remember: Most Dogs Don't Bite

## But all dogs have the potential to bite

- It depends more on training, environment and situation than it does on their size or breed
- Approach all dogs with caution and respect

## If a Dog Attempts to Bite

- Stop and present an object for the dog to bite. Let the dog have the object as you retreat to safety
- Use a humane deterrent
- If you have no object to distract the dog:
  - Stand quietly
  - Place hands in fist around neck and head for protection
  - Quietly and slowly leave with sideways posture

## Dog Body Language

- Dogs communicate with their bodies
- Dogs signal intent and stress in many ways including:
  - Eyes
  - Ears
  - Mouth
  - Tail
  - Body posture
  - Learn dog body language to prevent dog bites



# Playful Behavior

**Eyes:** soft eyes; squinting; avoiding direct eye contact

**Ears:** held down; loose against head

**Mouth:** open and panting; closed but relaxed

**Tail:** neutral; wagging side to side leisurely

**Body posture:** relaxed, not stiff; weight back (play bow)

### If a dog is playful:

- Avoid eye contact
- Do not assume dog will remain playful
- Quietly and slowly leave with sideways posture



## Prey Drive / Aggressive Behavior

**Eyes:** direct eye contact; hard stare

**Ears:** perked forward or erect

**Mouth:** tightly closed; may whine, bark, growl or snarl

**Tail:** held high; may rapidly wag

**Body posture:** tense or still; hackles raised

### If a dog is in prey drive or aggressive:

- Stop all movement immediately
- Keep hands and arms close to body
- Quietly talk to the dog
- Put a barrier between you and the dog
- Avoid eye contact
- Quietly and slowly leave with sideways posture

