OBJECTIVE:
Students will learn basic safety tips when dealing with dogs.
Students will learn why dogs cause injuries by learning about basic animal behavior.
Students will develop more respect for dogs by learning about their habits and behavior.
Students will learn that the best way to avoid being bitten by a dog is to understand dog psychology.

Ask the class what animal was most likely domesticated (tamed) by man. Answer: the dog.
Ask the class to name some of the many ways humans utilize dogs today.
What is the number one reason we keep dogs today? Companionship, simply for pets!
Ask the class to name some of their favorite dog breeds. Tell them your favorite dog breed.

Ask the class, “Who has been bitten by a dog before?” Then ask the class, “Who has been bitten bad enough to have to go to the doctor?”
You will be surprised by the number of hands in the air.
This slide introduces what we are going to talk about.

This slide just throws out an interesting statistic and a couple of neat pictures.
(by the way, the mean looking dog on the right is a Dogue de Bordeaux, the dog on the movie Turner and Hooch)
Dog Safety

Have you ever heard someone say, “Wow, he won’t bite” when talking about their dog? Or have you ever heard someone say, “I don’t like those dogs, they’re all mean.”

People say things like this all the time. Can you fairly say that a dog will never bite? Can you fairly say that all dogs of a particular breed are bad?

No! (on both counts)

Dog Safety

Ask the class to name some breeds that they consider dangerous. Pictures of some large breeds will come up.

Point that while pit bulls and Rottweilers are responsible for the majority of fatal dog attacks, there has been a case of a four-pound Pomeranian killing a six-week old infant.

Dog attacks can occur from any size or breed of dog!

The next couple of slides bring out some important points.

Under no. 1, stress that if you if are not going to spend time with dog and care for it properly, You Don’t Need A Dog!

Under no.2, stress that dogs that exposed to new sights, sounds, smells, situations, etc., are less nervous and therefore less apt to bite. Fear causes bites! Lessen the fear!

For no. 3, stress that even training your dog to do simple tricks or commands at home teaches the dog to listen to you. Going to an obedience class is even better (remember socialization?).

For no. 4, some people are naturally scared to dogs. When you are scared and unsure, dog becomes scared and unsure and this increases the chance of fear biting. Running from a dog triggers the chase instinct.

For no. 5, some breeds are supposed to be aggressive. If you are not an experienced dog handler, avoid these breeds. Terriers, mastiffs, pit bulls, etc. Research breeds before you get a new dog. Never ‘impulse buy’ a puppy just because its soo cute!
Stress to the class that the dog owner has control over four of the five points we just discussed.

Hopefully, this illustrates that being a responsible dog owner is the best way to stem the dog bite epidemic.

Again, if you are going to have a dog, spend time with it, train it, treat it right or just don’t have a dog. Simple.

Here we switch gears and talk about dog psychology.

As much as we want our dogs to use human logic and have human emotions, they don’t. They’re dogs!

Expecting dogs to think like humans is illogical! We have to learn how and why they think and act like they do. It is part of being a responsible dog owner.

This slide is self explanatory. You do not have a professionally trained ‘guard dog’ in order for your dog to keep watch over your property. A dog will naturally protect its territory and family.

There is a picture of a Doberman with its family that appears. This family is well protected by a dog that is still friendly toward non-threatening strangers.

Again, the slide is self explanatory. Dogs chasing things is the hunting instinct, inherited from wolves. Now it may only be chasing a ball, but this is where it came from.

Running away from a dog only makes it want to chase you!

A couple of pictures of herding dog will appear at the end of the slide.
Dog Safety

As we stated earlier, wolves live in packs. Every member of a wolf pack has its own standing or position within the pack.

There is always a dominant male and dominant female in every wolf pack. The 'alpha male' and 'alpha female'.

Dogs will try to establish their dominance or place in your pack (family). That means we have to teach them that people are higher in social standing of the pack than dogs.

This is one of the reasons that small dogs are snappy and aggressive. People think they are too cute to discipline!

Stress to the class that dog owners must be the alpha leaders of their dogs. When a puppy growls at you over its food, it is not cute. The puppy is asserting its dominance. If you do not correct this behavior, the puppy will grow into a dog that bosses you around.

Folks, I see this all the time, especially in small dogs. Why do you think Chihuahuas’ are known for bad temperament? Because people let them be ill-tempered!

A couple of pictures of snarling dogs are at the end.

This slide is easy to understand and hopefully illustrates why you should try to catch or pet a stray dog.

Backed into a corner by people it doesn’t know, most dogs can become fear biters!

A picture of a Chow-mix backed into a corner comes up at the end.

This slide just reinforces what we have already gone over. Go over it anyway!

Stress to the class that they should never pet a strange dog without its owner’s permission. Trying to catch or pet unknown dogs results in a lot of dog bites to children.

Stress that almost all pets should be spayed or neutered. Especially in males, this reduces aggressive tendencies. There are also low-cost programs as well as free programs to get pets spayed or neutered.
Dog Safety

In closing, remember that dogs are wonderful companions and willing servants to mankind.

Here kitty kitty

It is our duty to do our best to reward that loyalty by taking care of our dogs as best we can because they will take care of us.

Just for fun!

January Contests – Bread Baking

BAKING CONTEST

Both the bread baking and cookie contest will be at your January meeting. All entries should be brought to the site and judged by the members present. Judges should consider the following factors: taste, texture, color, and overall presentation.

COOKIES CONTEST

There are several categories of entries, including:

DIVISION I: Butter Cookies - all grades
DIVISION II: Sugar Cookies - all grades
DIVISION III: Rolled Cookies - all grades

THREE TYPES OF COOKIES:

DISSOLVE COOKIES:
- The dough is dropped from a spoon onto baking sheets. Leave space between the dough for it to spread when baking.

ROLL BAKED COOKIES:
- These cookies have a texture more like cake and are the easiest to bake. The dough is spread in a greased pan and baked for a given length of time. When cooled, the cookies are cut into squares or bars.

ROLLED-SHAPED COOKIES:
- These cookies are rolled out and cut into different shapes. The cookies are made from dough, and shaped with the hands.

BREAD BAKING

4th Grade: 3 Cradled Muffins
5th - 6th Grade: 3 Biscuits
7th - 8th Grade: Yeast Bread (half of 1 muffin)
9th - 12th Grade: Yeast Bread (a loaf of 3 rolls)

January Contests – Model Vehicles

Building model cars is a popular activity for many 4-H members. Only one model is entered in each class. All models must be made by the 4-H member entering them in the contest. You may use plastic model kits, snap together kits, or wood kits.

CLASSES ARE:
1. Model Car - plastic, wood, or other kits
2. Model Truck - plastic, wood, or other kits
3. Model airplanes, boats, space shuttles, or military vehicles

Judging Criteria:

Judges will look for:

- Neatness of model. How does it look compared to all other models?
- Use of glue. Glue should not be visible on outside. Use a toothpick or liquid glue made especially for model kits. Any glue visible on the outside will result in points deducted.
- Use of paint and details. Are all decals neatly applied? Is paint smooth and even?
- Construction. Does it put together properly or does it fall apart when it is picked up or moved?
- Difficulty of model. How difficult was your model compared to others in its class. Remember, snap together models are not as difficult as those requiring glue.

The bread baking and cookie contest rules.

The model vehicle contest rules.