

## **Animal Bites**

Due to the recent dog attacks that have gained media attention in Minneapolis and St. Paul, many people have inquired about aggressive animals and what to do when they or someone they know has been bitten by a dog.

### *How often do bite incidents occur?*

According to the American Medical Association, dog bites are the second leading cause of childhood injury, surpassing playground accidents. Still, dog bites go severely under reported each year. It is estimated that 2% of the population will be bitten by a dog each year, yet less than ten incidents were reported to Animal Control in 2006. Typically, 77% of bite incidents occur by dogs known to the victim as being “friendly.” Bites can not only cause injury and death, but can also cause psychological and emotional damages as well.

### *What can be done?*

Chanhasen Animal Control takes all complaints about bites and aggressive animals seriously, and we encourage all citizens to be proactive by reporting incidents of aggression to help avoid future problem. If you are a victim or witness to an aggressive animal issue, call 911 immediately.

### *What will Animal Control do?*

Chanhasen Community Service Officers handle all animal related incidents within the city. If a bite or aggressive dog issue is reported, an officer may respond to take a report for documentation purposes. The dog involved will need to be quarantined for ten days if it has bitten someone to ensure it is not rabid (this can be done at home). If the dog owner fails to report an incident or quarantine their dog, it will be seized by an Officer until it is deemed safe.

If you have any questions about dog bites or aggressive animals, please call a Community Service Officer at 952-227-1607.

