



## Loss Control Safety Techniques



### Pet Common Sense Tips

A pet is often considered part of the family, but any pet can and most likely will bite if provoked. Millions of people are bitten each year from their pet or another homeowner's pet. Many times with children or the elderly, these bites can cause serious medical problems or even death. Pet attacks cost more than \$1 billion in losses due to court cases and medical bills each year.

Take precautions with your own pet:

**Socialize Your Pet** - Introducing your pet to children and people at a younger age may help prevent an attack at a later time. Touching the pet's face and playing friendly games with them at an earlier age is a good way to prepare them to not feel threatened later in their lives.

**Get Your Pet Spayed or Neutered** - Neutering your pet will lessen the chance they will bite others. A spayed pet will have a calmer temperament and be less aggressive around children.

**Properly Train Your Pet** - A properly trained pet will be a more obedient pet. Teaching them commands such as "sit" or "stay" can build a trust between the pet and people.

**Properly Groom Your Pet** - Dogs and cats can develop very sharp claws. These claws can be very dangerous to children and the elderly. Take the time to cut these each week to prevent an accident from occurring.

**Visit the Veterinarian Regularly** - Pets can be vaccinated against rabies and worms if brought to the veterinarian on a regular basis. Rabies and worms are infectious diseases that can be transferred to humans. Getting your pet vaccinated can control the spread of diseases.

**Be Careful Picking Your Pet** - Before purchasing your pet; take the time to do some research on the breed's behavior. The internet, books, and your local veterinarian can offer you advice on the pet's common behavior.

**Keep Your Pet Confined** - Put your pet in a fenced yard, on a leash or in a pet crate when unfamiliar people are in your home. This will prevent the pet from being unnecessarily provoked.

Take precautions around other pets:

- Never approach pets you are not familiar with, especially ones that are confined in a fence, cage, or tank.
- Remain calm if a strange pet approaches you. Let the pet sniff you. Generally, it will go away if it doesn't feel threatened.
- Don't disturb a pet when it is sleeping, eating, playing with a toy, or caring for their pups.
- Babies and small children should never be left alone with pets.
- If you ever feel threatened, remain calm and avoid eye contact. Do not turn and run or push the pet away.
- If you are knocked to the ground, curl into a ball and cover your head. Remain motionless so the animal doesn't think you are a threat to them.

The information and suggestions contained in this material have been developed from sources believed to be reliable. However, Frankenmuth Insurance accepts no legal responsibility for correctness or completeness of this material, or its application to specific factual situations.