Be Smart About Animals!

Make sure you stay safe around pets.
Here are some safety tips to remember:

Ask the owner's permission before petting someone else's pet.

Approach slowly and quietly, and allow the animal to sniff the back of your hand. Pet the animal's sides or back gently.

Stay away from any dog who may be protecting something. That means not petting dogs who are eating, playing with a toy, tied to runs, fenced in, or in cars.

Dogs hate surprises. Never pet a sleeping dog and never sneak up to play.

If a dog growls or chases you, be still and quiet. Stand with your hands at your sides (like a tree). If you're playing on the ground, lie down with your knees into your stomach and hands over your ears (like a rock). Use backpacks or bikes as shields. Avoid eye contact, which is often viewed by dogs as a threat.

Don't play rough. In games like tug of war, dogs may bite by accident.

If you find an injured dog, get your parent(s) or another adult you know to help.

If you have questions about handling an animal, please contact the Lake County Health Department's Animal Care and Control Program at (847) 949-9925.

LakeCounty
Health Department and
Community Health Center