Advanced Dog Bite Prevention Training

www.DogEncounters.com

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CANINE MAN

SPEAKER, TRAINER, AUTHOR

Preparing Yourself for Dog Encounters

Internationally Known Dog Expert Available for Workshops and Demonstrations.

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Who is Hector Hernandez

Hector L. Hernandez is an author, former law enforcement officer, speaker and trainer. Located in U.S.A. He has over 20 years of experience and is recognized as the foremost authority in the United States for dog bite prevention. He has lowered the dog bite incidents in some areas by 55%. He has life saving testimonials from survivors that continue to motivate him and help keep him passionate about dog bite prevention. His speaking technique will make you laugh, while also making you think seriously about dog behavior and how to stay safe in all kinds of dog encounters.
Counting on Owners for your Safety

Calling owner notifying them of your presence
It’s a great addition to safety, but shouldn’t be the sole safety option

- Didn’t pay their phone bill
- Did they get the message?
- Owner thinks dog will not bite
- Don’t care
- See you as a trespasser
- Owner moved
- Everyone in the family has to be notified
- Doggie doors
- Trusting owner to keep dog secured in house
- Kids
- Owners can’t handle their own dogs
- Loose dogs
- Does not want you there, turn off order
Dogs that handle stress with aggression
Your enemy!

• Dogs that have a predisposition to be aggressive, and are designed to guard, protect. Predator control.
• These dogs may not give up when pressured.
• German Shepherds, Rottweiler, Doberman pinchers, pit bulls to name a few.
Applicable Dog Bite Statute

Know your:
City
States
Federal

Can you file a claim for injuries?
Theory vs. Practice

Don’t gamble with your safety
My theories are tested with aggressive dogs

There are many theories circulating around the world that have worked with passive or friendly dogs, but no one has tested them with dogs that are intent on attacking you. Until NOW! Below are some theories that sound good but in practice with aggressive dogs may help you get bitten or seriously injured.

- Call the dog to you
- Go to the ground and curl up in a ball
- Give dog your weak arm
- Standing still (tree), not looking at dog
- Stick with a ball or just a ball (provides you space)
- Umbrella (provides you space)
- Stick your hand down dog’s throat
- 8 x 10 piece of paper
Fanatical Dog Owners
Someone with excessive and/or unquestioning love for dogs.

(Owner could be your second threat)
• Their dogs can do no wrong
• Their dogs are their whole life
• Value a dog’s life more than a human’s
• Will die for their dogs
• Worry about dog safety, before human safety
• Could be mentally ill

• DO NOT ARGUE!
When arriving at a location scan to prepare yourself: Dog or person

Creating good habits takes seconds
“Beware of Dog” signs.
Dog houses, chains, bowls, and toys.
Dog feces and yellowed/dead grass.
Worn tracks around the fence – an indication the dog is out a lot.
Don't add your own distraction - music or cell phone .
Keep your hands out of pockets
Harmful Mistakes of Dog Encounters
Don’t increase your chances of being bitten

• Running from a dog
• Not understanding body language
• Turning your back on a dog
• Trusting the owner
• Looking away from your threat
• Challenging the dog (walking towards threat)
Safely Retreating from a Dog Encounter
Using a Win-Win Technique

Walk Away-Facing Dog

- Do not run
- Be mentally and physically equipped: Be ready
- Stop and face your threat while walking backwards
- If the dog is coming toward you, walk backwards, giving you space and time to react.
- Give the dog common commands like “stay,” “sit,” “down” “No-go home”
- Remain calm so you’re able to think in the face of fear and stress.
Safe Tactics against a charging dog and attack

Walking Back - Shaking Object

• If the dog has decided to attack, present a moving target by shaking something like your hat in front of the dog.  
  Walk slowly backwards retreating, keeping an eye on the dog.

• If dog bites the object, you will know the dog’s intent, giving you justification to defend yourself: dog repellent spray, striking techniques or stronger measures.

• Biting the object
  • convey to the dog that you’re not afraid, the bite did not scare you and you’re leaving
  • You can now defend yourself without feeling pain
  • Buys you time to respond
Anatomy of a set up

“Get caught doing the right thing”
Everyone has a camera
Underground electric fence

• If the dog is in a yard where an underground electric fence is confining it don’t consider that type of fence a valid means of containment. The dog may get a rush of adrenaline and cross the fence line. The dog’s state of aggression will numb its body from the shock and it may bite you.
If the owner is present:

- Insist the dog is put away in a secure area. Using the word “NEED.”
- I will do my job, when you put your dog away
- RESPONSE: I would feel better if you secured the dog
- I need you to put your dog away, before I do my job
- I will let you know when I’m done
- Never pet the dog (on lead or loose). Dog has no loyalty to you, and it may bite you. In some places, it’s considered provoking.
- If the owner answers the door with the dog or the dog shows up and becomes aggressive at any time, keep an eye on the dog and secure the door.
Trapped in yard or house

Do not close the door until you know there is no threat indoors. If you do get trapped, keep your back to a wall and side step to an exit, always keeping an eye on the dog.
Legally using Dog Repellent Spray
If time and circumstances permit

- Spray works on dogs that are behaving aggressively toward you, but have not yet made the decision to actively bite you – that is, dog is circling you or standing still but barking.
- Start spraying as soon as you see the dog coming at you.
- Walk slowly backwards, keeping an eye on the dog at all times. This creates space and gives you time to think about your options.
- Give verbal commands, remember to give commands like “stay,” “sit,” “down”
- Spray into the dog’s mouth if possible, this will stimulate the dog’s licking reflex
- Spray in a back and forth, side to side manner
- Preventing blow back, place your opposite hand in front of your face
The Treat Myth and Trap

If you carry treats to smooth things over with some dogs, the dogs will see people entering their property as a good thing. The problem arises when other workers get confused by the approaching dog. The dog is looking for its treat, but the stranger may well think the dog is about to attack and will hit it, spray it with repellent or use even stronger force. Your treats have created a painful, even lethal, trap for the dog.

Legal issues: poison or allergic and possibly on video
A uniformed person enters the dog’s yard. It barks; the person leaves. The dog thinks that it has scared the person away. Thus, uniformed people who come and go as part of their jobs have indirectly built the dog’s confidence in its ability to challenge them and bite them. Now the dog perceives anyone wearing a uniform who invades its territory as a threat.
Understanding a Dog’s Body Language

Your main line of defense

Universal with every breed
Friendly Body Language

• Full body moving
• Mouth opening and closing, relaxed
• May be looking or running directly at you
Potentially Threatening

• Mouth tensed and closed
• Avoids eye contact, then directs it back
• May feel cornered on lead, or tied up
• Holds their breath before biting
Dangerous Body Language

• Direct eye contact that becomes tunnel vision
• Body is stiff
• Auditory Exclusion
• Dog handles any stress with aggression
Myths about body language

• Tail wagging – excited or happy and could be happy or excited to bite you
• Eye contact – You’re already a threat, you have entered its territory, and you stand over it, looking away will convey you are weak
• Sniff hand - rely on body language
• Dogs don’t smell fear, they smell weakness: Disease, wounds, death, infections, which will lead to predation.
• They see fear: Paralyzed with fear
Stray dogs

- Cautious about striking (rabies)
- Treats – Live day-to-day and no one to feed them.
- Why injuring them is death
- What’s their territory? Turf war
Legally Defending Yourself Against a Violent Dog Attack

You have the right to defend yourself against injury or death, using force necessary to stop the threat.
Strikes to Stop an Active Attack

Legal issue:
• Once the threat is stopped, you cannot continue (no revenge)
• Attack must be occurring for self defense

• Anywhere on the spine - from back of neck to hindquarters
• Uppercut to throat - while dog is biting object or you
• Kick to chest
Surviving a Vicious Dog Pack Attack

KEEP YOUR BACK TO ANY OBJECT AND YOUR EYES ON THE DOGS AT ALL TIMES
Stress Inoculation
Train yourself to think in the face of fear and stress

Live demonstration on how to apply what is taught and how to think in the face of fear.