

# Public Health Advisory

## Staying safe around dogs

**Start Date: August 31, 2026**

**End Date:** October 31, 2026

## Nunavut-wide

**60 sec**

Following dog attacks in several Nunavut communities, which have resulted in serious injuries for those bitten, the Department of Health advises all Nunavummiut to be aware of the risks and asks parents to have conversations with their children about safe interactions with dogs.

Any dog can bite. For your safety, remember the following:

- Stay away from stray or unfamiliar dogs.
- Never tease a dog. Don't yell at it, chase it, throw things at it or pull its ears, tail, or fur.
- Don't go near a dog that is eating. Dogs may protect their food, bones or treats.
- Don't disturb a dog while it is sleeping.
- Stay away from a mother dog and her puppies. She may become protective and defensive.
- Ask permission before petting a dog. Even a friendly-looking dog can bite if it is frightened or uncomfortable.

If a dog bites or scratches you, wash the wound right away with soap and water, and go to your health centre or hospital to report it. Due to the risk of rabies, treatment must be started quickly after exposure, as rabies infections are almost always fatal.

Rabies is a deadly but preventable virus that can infect animals and humans. The greatest risk in Nunavut of human exposure to rabies is from domestic dogs.

If you have concerns about a stray or aggressive dog, contact your local bylaw officer or conservation officer. For more information, visit [Rabies in Nunavut | Government of Nunavut](#).

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## Communications