

## Winsome Wisdom – The Hand That Feeds

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One thing you can count on when it comes to the American spirit is that we Americans are never at a loss for something to celebrate. You know all the usual festive occasions: Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day... and that's only the month of May. Here's one that I'll bet slipped your mind.



Did you know that the third full week of May was once designated as National Dog Bite Prevention Week? Well, it used to be anyway. The American Veterinary Medical Association has informed us that, beginning in 2017, the program will be commemorated during the second full week of April.

Although we're a month behind, it's an issue that warrants our attention. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 4.5 million Americans are bitten by dogs each year, and one in five dog bites results in injuries that require medical attention. I remember as a kid my brother Jerry being attacked by a neighbor's German Shepherd, and the accompanying trauma of his medical treatment, including rabies shots, is forever etched in my memory.

Among those most frequently bitten include joggers, walkers, cyclists, postal carriers, children playing, and ....you guessed it... utility employees.

So whether you're a concerned parent, fitness fan, or utility field rep, I have included some links to information you might find useful for yourself as a dog owner (or do they own you?), and to pass along to your customers whose dogs could present a threat during the course of conducting business.

- [Dog Bite Prevention for Utility Workers](#)
- [Teaching Children How to Prevent Dog Bites](#)
- [Preventing Dog Bites](#)

And remember...as Sgt. Phil Freemason Esterhaus used to say on *Hill Street Blues*...."Let's be careful out there."



