

**RESOLUTION #9—2023
Regular Winter Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

REVISED POLICY ON DOG BITE PREVENTION

RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the revised policy on Dog Bite Prevention as noted below (additions are underlined, deletions are ~~struck through~~).

Dog Bite Prevention

All veterinarians have a professional and ethical obligation to address the issue of dog bites ~~in the United States~~. Depending on the context, any dog has the potential to bite. Therefore, v eterinarians are obligated to be fully informed ~~and up-to-date~~ on the latest information and resources available to reduce dog bite risks. The AVMA considers it inappropriate to make predictions about a given dog's propensity for aggressive behavior based solely on its breed. The AVMA also considers it inappropriate to label specific breeds or classes of animals as aggressive or dangerous. The AVMA encourages state and local veterinary associations and individual veterinarians to disseminate information about dog bite prevention to ~~various relevant audiences (e.g., organizations including governmental agencies, schools, youth organizations, civic clubs, pet care organizations, and the public)~~. This information should be disseminated via multiple different channels, including printed materials, presentations, and online educational materials. Individual veterinarians are well-positioned to assist in providing client education about dog bite prevention, ~~with referral to behaviorists or trainers as indicated~~. ~~Additionally, veterinarians should become more aware of recommendations to reduce dog bite risks.~~

Statement about the Resolution

After review by the Steering Committee on Human-Animal Interactions, the policy was revised to align more clearly with the AVMA policy on Dangerous Animal Legislation and Dog Bite Prevention Week messaging. And statements were added about how all dogs can bite and the importance of avoiding declaring particular breeds, rather than individual dogs, as "dangerous." The proposed revision also removes redundant concepts and adds mention of the option to refer specific patients to other canine behavior experts as indicated. Supporting this policy, the [Dog Bite Prevention Toolkit](#) is available to members.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #6	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X (as amended)	X (as amended)	X (amended as noted below*)	X (amended as noted below*)
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)

***Revised Policy on Dog Bite Prevention**

Strike the word “animals” and replace it with the word “dogs” in the fifth sentence.