

I know first hand why you should avoid animals you do not know. Last year I was mauled by a neighborhood dog that I thought I knew. You should always report a stray animal to the local animal control center. They will come pick up the animal and may be able to place it back with its family. There are three main reasons you should avoid them: 1. They could have rabies, 2. They could just snap at you or bite you, and 3. They could maul you (like me). Why you ask? Because rabies is deadly, bites can be serious, and getting mauled is a very serious attack from an animal.

Rabies can be a deadly disease. It can be transferred from an animal to a human through a bite. Pets receive shots every year to protect them against rabies. In my case, I did not know if the dog had his shots. In fact, my family found out afterwards that the dog's shots were not current. The dog was kept in the animal control shelter for several days to make sure he did not have rabies.

If a dog snaps or appears to want to bite you, you should first stand still and say something like "go home," or "get away." You should also raise your arms above your head to make yourself look taller. Never look an animal in the eyes; it threatens them. Never run away; just walk away confidently.

If you come across a dog that seems like a stray or is unfamiliar to you, first follow the directions above. If the dog is coming at you and jumps on you, cover your face immediately and scream for help. Try to cover your ears, too. After someone assists you in getting the dog away or when the dog stops the attack, get help from an adult and go to a medical center to be checked out. Call the animal control center and describe the animal and the location of the attack. It should always be reported so that the animals can be found and picked up.

So after reading this, you should know why to never go near an unfamiliar stray animal, or even an animal that may seem familiar to you. B was lucky, but you may not be. You never know what could happen.