Be a Responsible Pet Parent
When possible, research your dog’s breed AND the shelter before adopting.
• Spayed or neutered pets are less likely to bite, so have your dog “fixed” ASAP.
• Begin training classes early—after first vaccinations is a good start.**

When the Doorbell Rings
• If your pet overreacts to visitors or delivery people, keep the dog secured in another room.
• Socialize your dog! Well-socialized dogs are less likely to become frightened by everyday things and act out aggressively.**

Teach Your Kids the Basics of Dog Safety
• Never approach a barking, growling or scared dog.
• Don’t pet unfamiliar dogs without asking permission from the dog’s guardian first.
• Avoid leaving children 10 years and younger alone with a dog.**

Don’t Just Talk the Talk; Walk the Walk
Know your dog’s triggers of aggression, such as pain or sickness; fear of strangers; unexpected touching; unfamiliar surroundings; and loud noises. If you think your dog will encounter triggers, leave the dog at home.**

*Source: Insurance Information Institute and State Farm®. **Source: ASPCA.org.