In 2021, homeowners insurers paid out over $881 million as a result of 17,989 dog bite claims.* As a dog owner you have the responsibility to prevent your pooch from causing harm to people, other pets or property.

Here are a few tips to keep your dog from causing any harm and taking a bite out of your bank account.

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.

The National Dog Bite Prevention Week® Coalition includes the American Humane Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, Insurance Information Institute, Positively® Victoria Stilwell, and State Farm Insurance.

For more information: www.iii.org    twitter.com/iiiorg