## **Stray Dogs in Hurricane Disaster Areas**

Any dog that is loose may be lost, frightened, or hurt – and more likely to bite. Even dogs that are usually friendly may bite if they are scared or hurt.

## To avoid being bitten by a dog:

- Do not walk up to or call a dog you do not know.
- Do not feed or pet a dog you do not know.
- Do not disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating or caring for puppies.
- If a strange dog walks toward you, stay calm.
- Do not run from a dog and scream be "still like a tree".
- Do not make eye-to-eye contact with a dog.
- If you fall or are knocked to the ground by a dog, curl into a ball with your hands over your head and neck. Protect your face. Try to stay still and do not scream.

## If you are bitten by a dog:

- Call 911 if emergency help is needed.
- Take care of the bite wound:
  - o Before treating the wound, wash your hands with soap and clean water.
  - o Remove any item that is in the way of caring for the wound.
  - o Put pressure on the wound with a clean cloth to spot bleeding.
  - After the bleeding has stopped, pour bottled or clean running water over the wound.
  - o Gently clean around the wound with soap and clean water.
  - o Pat dry and use an adhesive bandage or dry clean cloth to cover the wound.
  - o Leave unclean wounds open.
- Call your doctor or go to the hospital emergency department for more care.
- Report the bite to your local animal control agency. Tell the animal control official everything you know about the dog and where it went.

## If you are trying to find your lost dog or a temporary place to keep your dog:

Look on the Web at http://disaster.petfinder.com/emergency



