

June 29, 2007

Dr. Sally L. Cleland
SVMA Council Liaison
Community Relations Committee
4824 Castle Road
Regina SK S4S 4X3

Dear Dr. Cleland:

Re: Teacher's Resource Kit, Doggonese, Dog Bite Prevention

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, I would like to provide support for your association's efforts to obtain approval and authorization from Saskatchewan Learning for the Be-A-Tree Teacher's Kit and related materials to be used in Saskatchewan classrooms.

Upon reviewing the program and meeting with representatives from the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medicine Association, we feel that it is extremely important to teach children about safety around both strange and familiar dogs in order to prevent injuries related to bites. Statistics show that 1 out of every 2 children in Canada will be bitten by the time that they are twelve. Many of these bites are in the neck and face area due to the size of the child and/or attempts by the child to hug/ kiss the animal. Dog bites are most often caused by children "behaving" in ways that invite or provoke dogs to attack.

The Be-A-Tree program, created by Doggonese, is practical, interactive, adaptable to many age groups, and easily used by teachers in the classroom without further training. The program teaches school-age children how to be safe around dogs and how to recognize a dog's body language. Be-A-Tree provides children with an effective "tool kit" that they can use at any time. The "tools", (eg., standing like a tree), are practiced throughout the lesson so that they are learned without difficulty.

In addition, the Doggonese website includes further resources that teachers may use in their classroom or send home to assist parents to reinforce the lessons taught in the program.

Our Goal is Healthy Children

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

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It is my pleasure to support Saskatchewan Veterinary Medicine Association Council in their work in this area. The importance of early prevention and education programs cannot be understated.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Shanks".

Jill Shanks, BSN, MCEd
Executive Director

cc. Lee Hinton, Program Manager