

Safety for Children around Dogs

Nuts About Muts

Parental Advice

Children under the age of ten should NEVER be left unsupervised with any dog, even for a few moments.

Make sure you teach your child to give any dog space and allow the dog to come to them rather than the child approach the dog. Teach your child to call the dog to them, calmly and to remain calm when around a dog at all times as high pitched squeals can excite or upset a dog.

Not all dogs like to be cuddled or fussed unless familiar with it from an early age, so supervision of interaction is a must to ensure that no unacceptable behaviour occurs for the child or the dog, e.g. the dog jumps up or the child hangs from the dog's neck.

Children should NEVER approach or disturb a dog that is sleeping or follow a dog that is trying to find a quiet space to get a way. Always provide a space for the dog to go for some peace and quiet.

Children need to learn not to tease or bully a dog and the dog has to learn that boisterous behaviour is unacceptable. Train your dog to be calm and remember if you are calm yourself, then your dog should remain calm.

NEVER punish a dog by hitting in the presence of a child. Never punish a dog by hitting it, full stop!

Experiences during the first year of a dog's life make all the difference so ensure you follow a suitable puppy socialisation plan and if possible take your dog to training classes.

Happy dogs don't usually bite but ALL dogs may bite if they feel threatened or trapped.

Dogs do not automatically know right from wrong and have to be taught how to behave.

Animals react to how they feel; if they feel unwell they may become aggressive so always check with a vet if your dog's behaviour suddenly changes.

Do not allow your child to play rough and tumble or chase games with your dog. It can very easily escalate from fun to aggression

Children Remember!

Listen to what an owner tells you about their dog

ALWAYS ask before you touch any animal

Give dogs plenty of space around it so that it doesn't feel frightened of you

Try to remain calm and talk quietly when around dogs and remember that dogs are frightened by sudden movements so walk, don't run around or jump

Never get cross, hit or kick a dog.

Leave a dog alone if it is asleep

Always drop any toy, stick or food so that the dog leaves you alone

Always call your dog to you and leave him alone if he doesn't come.

Never chase or throw things like a stick or wave and tease a dog with food or toys.

Never run away as dogs like to chase. If a dog approaches you, stand tall like a statue and fold your arms in. If a dog is aggressive and knocks you over, curl up as small as you can and tuck in your arms.