



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Topic: Safety Around Dogs

OBJECTIVE: TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO PROPERLY GREET A DOG AND SAFETY TIPS IN CASE THEY ENCOUNTER A LOOSE DOG.

Materials

AKC® MATERIALS:

- [Dog Listener Video](#)
- [Dog Listener Activity Book](#)
- [How to Approach a Dog Poster](#)
- [Safety Checklist for Kids Flier](#)
- [Safety Scramble](#)

OTHER MATERIALS:

- Crayons
- Pencils

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. Show *The Dog Listener* video by the AKC.
2. Ask the children to count how many dogs they know. Ask them if they are ever afraid of dogs or if a dog has ever scared them.
3. Explain why learning how to say hello to a new dog or a familiar dog is important. State the reasons why children should not run toward a dog or scream with excitement when they see a dog.
4. Go through the process of greeting a dog step-by-step. Write each step on a chalkboard, white board or a flipchart if available. Or, ask the children to repeat the steps back to you. The steps are as follows: 1. Ask the owner for permission, 2. Curl your hand into a fist and offer the back of your hand to the dog. 3. Allow the dog to smell you, 4. Pet the dog gently under the chin, and 5. Thank the owner.
5. Demonstrate each step with the children. Ask the children to follow along, but demonstrate the steps yourself with your dog.
6. Ask for a volunteer to greet your dog correctly.

PART TWO:

1. After the children have greeted your dog, ask them if any of them have seen a loose or stray dog in their neighborhood. Define stray dog as one that is not on a leash and does not have an owner present.
2. Explain the possible consequences of running and screaming when you see a loose dog. Explain the benefits of standing still and ignoring the dog.
3. Explain the two actions children should take when confronted by a loose or stray dog. 1. Cross your arms in front of you and stand like a tree 2. Look at the ground or off to one side away from the dog. (It is important the children look away from the dog to avoid an unintentional challenge.)
4. Ask the children to demonstrate the two steps.
5. Tell the children they should never approach a loose or stray dog even if it looks scared or hurt and they want to help it. The dog could injure the child.
6. Tell the children to tell an adult about any loose or stray dogs they see. Explain that adults can contact local authorities who can help the dog safely return to its home.
7. Walk your dog around the area, and tell the children to pretend the dog is alone and off its leash. Have the children practice the steps as your dog walks calmly past.

Topic: Safety Around Dogs continued

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

1. Why should you always ask permission before petting a dog?
2. Why should you let the dog sniff you first?
3. Why should you avoid loose or stray dogs?
4. What might happen if you ran away screaming from a loose or a stray dog?

SUGGESTED ANSWERS:

1. You should always ask permission before petting any dog. Not only because it is polite, but because some dogs may not like children or may be sick.
2. People recognize other people by sight. Dogs, on the other hand, recognize people by their scent. Therefore, when a dog sniffs you, he is recognizing you and saying hello.
3. A loose dog may be scared and think you are a threat. A loose or stray dog may not be friendly, and you could get hurt if you tried to pet it. The best action to take is to tell an adult about the dog, so the adult can help the dog return home safely or call animal control.
4. If you ran away screaming from a loose or stray dog, the dog may chase you. The dog may also become scared and try to bite you out of fear. The best idea is to make like a tree and stand very still until the dog goes away.

HAVE EACH CHILD...

- Draw a picture of a child greeting a dog properly.
- Draw a picture of a child taking the proper precautions around a loose or stray dog.
- Complete the Dog Listener Activity Packet or individual safety worksheets.

NOTES:
