

Safety Checklist For Kids

Dogs can be fun to play with, but remember - a dog is not a toy. Always be kind and gentle with your dog, and never poke, step on or pull your dog's hair, ears or tail.

Learn the following rules and share them with your family and friends:



Always ask a dog's owner if you may pet the dog.

There may be a very good reason why a dog should not be touched. He may be "on duty" as a handicapped person's helper, or he may be hurt, sick, or afraid of kids.

Approach a dog from the front or side.

Hold your hands low and speak softly. If you surprise a dog from behind, wave your hands in the air, or yell, you could scare the dog and cause him to try to bite you.

Let a dog eat and sleep in peace.

A dog who is eating may think you are going to take his food away if you come too close, so be sure to leave him alone until he is done. If a dog is sleeping, you might scare him if you come too close and wake him up, so wait until he wakes up by himself.



Watch out for special toys.

Some dogs have strong feelings for their balls and chew toys - just like you do with your favorite toys! You wouldn't want someone to grab your favorite toy away from you, so don't take a bone or toy from a dog's mouth unless you have trained him to drop it and give it to you first.

Respect a dog's space.

Dogs naturally protect their territories. Sticking your hand inside a strange dog's pen, through a fence or in a car window where a dog is sitting may cause him to bite to protect his property.



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