

## CHILDREN AND DOGS

Every year many children are bitten or mauled by dogs. We feel that educating children might reduce that number. Please advise your children:

Never approach a strange dog, even if he looks friendly. If a strange dog approaches you, never stare him in the eye. That is a challenge to a dog. Just stand still, looking down, with your arms at your sides. The worst thing to do is to run away screaming. This is an invitation for him to chase you. If you are riding a bicycle and a dog chases you, get off the bike. You probably can't outrun him. Stand still and he will probably just smell the bicycle and leave you alone.

Dogs at any age should be left alone by children when they are chewing on a bone, eating, or sleeping.

Never tease a puppy or dog, especially with food. Do not run around or tease a chained dog.

If your ball or toy goes into a fenced yard, do not climb the fence. Some dogs are very irritated with this intrusion. You should tell an adult at the house and ask them to get your ball back for you.

A dog should never be allowed to jump up on you, nip or bite -- not even a puppy in play. Puppies do not grow out of this, they need to be corrected. Children should always play very gently with a puppy. Make sure you don't grab their hair or skin. Never play running games to let him chase you. He also must be taught not to jump up on you.

If you see someone walking their dog in a park or on the street, you should always first ask permission before you pet him. If the owner says it is all right, then walk slowly near the dog and hold out your hand (palm down) to let him smell your hand and make friends.

If you see a lost dog wandering in your neighborhood, the kindest thing that you can do is to call the animal control warden. She will take him to the pound where he will be safe until his owner comes to get him. If he is allowed to wander, he could get hurt. People always call the pound when their pet is missing.

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