

Kids and Dogs: Living Together Happily...and Safely!



Never walk up to a dog. Go around to give the dog space.



Hold out your hand so the dog can sniff it.



Call the dog over to you instead of walking up to the dog.



It is OK to go up to a dog that looks playful.



Look away from the dog to show you mean him no harm.

Dos and Don'ts

Dogs almost never bite without good reason. And humans – especially kids – are often the reason! Here are a few behaviors for kids to avoid to stay safe around dogs.

As a general rule, all children should know to never, ever walk up to or touch a strange dog, especially if the dog is tied up or on a leash. A dog that is tied up or on a leash cannot flee a stressful situation, increasing the risk of a bite. Children should also be taught to ask the owner's permission before touching, or even walking up to, a strange dog. And, when it comes to the family dog, children need to be taught to respect a dog's space, sleeping area, and mealtimes by following certain rules.

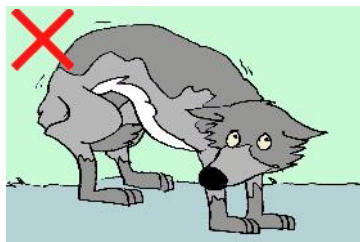
If a child is too young to understand and follow these simple rules, then it is up to you, as parents, to make sure that they are followed at all times.



Never go near a dog while it is eating.



Never disturb a dog while it is sleeping or resting.



Never walk up to a dog that looks fearful.



Never put your face up close to a dog's face.



Never hit a dog.



Never run after a dog.



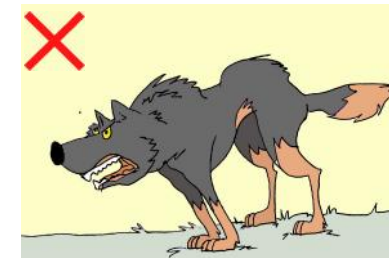
Never go up to a dog that is tied up.



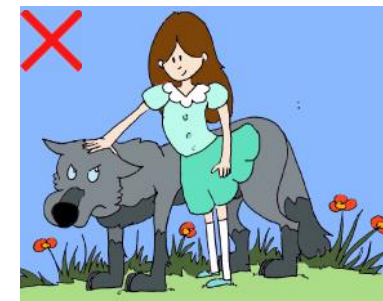
Never look a dog in the eyes.



Never run up to a dog.



Never walk up to a dog that looks aggressive.



Never pet a dog you don't know on the head.