Good Behaviour Around Dogs

Ask Children to Approach Slowly

- No one should invade the dog's personal space.
- Let the dog come part way to the child, who can hold out the back of their closed hand slightly toward the dog, but **not** in the dog's face.
- Let the dog sniff the child.
- Children should not approach a dog when it is eating or chewing a treat or toy.
- Sleeping dogs should be avoided in case you startle them awake.
- **Never** pull a dog's ears or tail or grab it's paws.
- Avoid hugging dogs. This makes many dogs uncomfortable. If a dog feels threatened enough to bite, your head is dangerously close (the "bite zone").
- Avoid putting your face close to a dog's face. Remember your personal space and the dog's personal space.
- Avoid running away from dogs. The dog may want to chase after you as it thinks you are playing.
- Avoid yelling or screaming around dogs. Excessive noise can scare or excite some dogs and may just annoy others.

How to pet a dog

- Start by softly petting the dog's chin or chest.
- Gentle scratching is also fine, but avoid putting your hands over the dog's face and head.
- If soft petting/scratching of the chin/chest is tolerated, show the child you can gently pet or scratch the neck and back. **Remember** – stroke in the direction of the fur.
- Make sure the petting stops if the dog backs away, snaps, growls, or looks distressed.

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering

More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brows Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



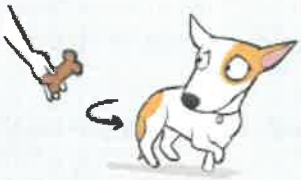
Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



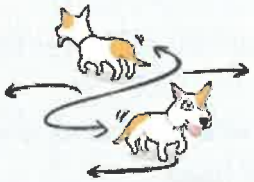
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

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