



Dog Safety for Children

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Never leave a child or baby alone with a dog.
- When visiting friends or relatives who have a dog, don't allow your child to play in the garden unsupervised. If that's not possible, ask the owners to put the dog away.
- Do not allow your child to feed a dog unsupervised as some dogs can be very protective of food. Never allow your dog to snatch food from your child.
- Do not allow your child to pull on the dog's collar to lead it outside the house – it could bite them. The dog should be taught to respond to a verbal command.
- Children without adult supervision should not be allowed to walk a dog. A child could unwittingly be dragged into a fight with another dog.
- Never let children discipline a dog.
- Your child should always precede your dog through a door or gate.
- Never buy a dog as a toy substitute. Dogs are living, breathing creatures with feelings. Children should be taught this from an early age and shown how to treat dogs with respect.

RULES FOR CHILDREN

- Never pat a strange dog, even if its owner is present.
- Stay away from a dog while it's eating and sleeping.
- Stop your bike if chased while riding.
- Never retrieve a ball from someone else's garden.
- If visiting a friend, who has a dog, ask them to put the dog away if you want to play.
- Stay away from a dog that has puppies.
- Stay away from a dog that is tied up.
- Never pull a dog's tails or ears – dogs feel pain too.
- Never tease a dog or make it angry.
- Stand totally still if a dog runs at you barking. Cover your face with your hands.
- If knocked to the ground by a dog, roll into a ball, cover your face with your arms and stay as still as you possibly can. Don't try to get up.

This information and more is featured in a Bark Busters authored book, "Training Dogs the Aussie Way" and the Bark Busters child safety video "Dally Says". For book or video enquiries contact Free Call 0808 100 4071



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DOG SAFETY FOR CHILDREN