



Dog Safety Tips

to teach Children

Children are fascinated with dogs! Unfortunately, too often, a child's excitement for meeting or playing with a dog leads to injuries to children or dogs. Fortunately, children can be taught to respect a dog, understand how to interact safely and what to do when they encounter a strange dog.

Start teaching your children the following safety guidelines regarding dogs when they are young and continue reinforcing these precautions frequently. You want to be absolutely certain they fully understand these guidelines and the importance of them at all times:

- » Never run up to a dog.
- » Never attempt to touch a dog through a fence.
- » Never touch a dog that is growling, showing his teeth, or barking hysterically.
- » Young children must never approach dogs without adult supervision.
- » Always hold your hand out and allow the dog time to sniff your hand fully before making any other moves. This helps show the animal you are not aggressive.
- » Never grab at a dog, even if he is familiar with you. This is always seen as aggression and they will respond accordingly.
- » Never attempt to touch a dog that is eating, even if you gave him the food or treat initially. He may view this as an act of aggression, even if it is not intended as such.
- » Never hurt the animal by pulling its tail or fur. The dog will protect itself and do what it has to prevent pain or attack, even from someone it knows.
- » If a dog is leashed, always ask the dog's owner for permission to pet it before doing so.
- » Don't make loud noises or sudden moves when approaching a dog, as this may startle or frighten them, and they will act to protect themselves.
- » Always speak in a soft and gentle tone.
- » Do not touch the animal's eyes.



For more information on injury prevention, visit Safe Kids Grand Forks at www.safekidsgf.com or call 701.780.1489.

If a dog is chasing you, stop running, as this only encourages him to chase you. Avoid eye contact with an aggressive dog, and back off slowly and calmly.

Learn how to “Be a Tree” so a dog goes away.



Dogs communicate with body language. Be a Dog Detective. Look for clues that tell you how the dog is feeling before petting any dog, even your own dog or dogs that you know.