



KEEPING A CHILD SAFE AROUND DOGS



Children love to play with dogs but it's important for them to understand that dogs don't always want to be played with.

Not all dogs have the same temperament and will react differently to different situations.

You should set "ground rules" that your child needs to follow.

Teach your child:

- Never approach a dog they don't know, especially if it's a lone dog. Only stroke or play with the dog if the owner is present and gives permission.
- Always remain calm around the dog. No squealing, screaming, shouting. The dog won't like it.
- Never play rough. The dog won't know the child's intentions and may play rough in return. The child could easily be injured.
- Never tease or torment a dog.
- Never eat snacks or sweets around a dog. The dog may try to get the food which could result in the child being injured.
- Never disturb or play near a sleeping dog or one that is eating or drinking.
- Never approach an injured or unwell dog as they may react badly.

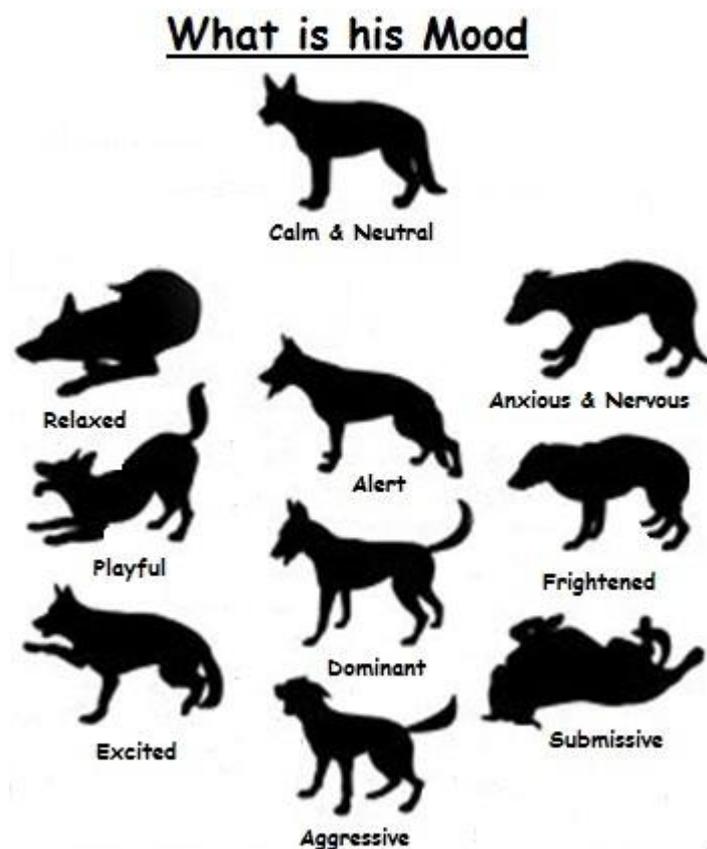
You should:

- Never allow a baby or toddler to crawl over a dog.
- Train your dog not to jump up at children or be too boisterous.
- Never leave a child with a dog unsupervised, even if only for a couple of minutes.
- Teach your puppy how to behave with children. If he is taught as a puppy he should grow into an adult dog that is safe around children.

It can be very difficult to know what your dog is thinking or how he is feeling. He can't tell you.

How Do You Tell What Mood a Dog is in?

Like people dogs have "body language" so study the following as these will help you understand the dog. Teach these to your child.



Happy Dogs

- Playful and jumping around
- Rolling onto their back
- Relaxed

Attention Seeking Dogs

- Barking, howling, putting his face close to yours, putting his paw on your lap, sitting close next to you or trying to sit on your lap.

Never just ignore dogs that are attention seeking, this could make him bad tempered.

Angry and Bad-Tempered dogs

- Growling, snarling or baring its teeth.

Do not approach a dog in this mood, keep your distance

Keep calm and slowly walk away - do not run

Do not wave your arms around. Keep your hands in your pockets.

Do not look directly into the dogs eyes.

Sick and Unwell Dogs

- Loss of appetite
- Tail down / droopy ears
- Less energy - not bouncing around as much

If you are concerned over the health of your dog talk to your vet.

Frightened Dogs

- Tail between their legs, ears flattened.
- Hiding away, whining or growling.

If he is growling move away and give him some space.

If he is scared speak softly to him, stay calm and reassure him. Separate the dog from whatever is scaring him.

Safety around Strange Dogs

We often see a dog out and about and sometimes with no apparent owner. Remember, you don't know this dog even if he appears friendly.

- Never rush up to a dog you don't know and never raise your voice. This could scare the dog and cause an unwanted reaction.
- If you can see the dog's owner, ask before stroking the dog. Hold your hand out to the dog and let him approach you first.
- Don't approach a dog that is tied up or eating/drinking.
- Never stare straight into a dogs eyes. A dog will see this as threatening. If the dog appears unfriendly or growls stay calm and walk away.