



Look closely at this picture. At first you may see a very cute child with a dog. In reality yes, it is a very cute child but that child is grabbing the face of a very fearful dog that is chained, feeling trapped with no hope of escaping. This dog fears for his life! This is not cute, it is very sad. Please think long and hard if you're considering getting a dog for a child. Are you prepared to keep your child and the new dog safe? The truth is that dogs and children do not necessarily go together. Unless, that is, there

has been plenty of prior preparation which includes education and training for everyone including the dog.

In a perfect world all children would be taught to respect a dog's space and never approach a dog without asking the owner. All dogs would be temperamentally sound, calm and stable around children, letting them into their personal space to poke and prod without fear or defensiveness.

The first ideal is what dog owners would wish for. The second is what parents of small children would hope for.

The fact is that neither one of these ideal situations is often the case in the REAL world. Most parents don't take the time to educate their children in respecting animals and not approaching them at all or at least approaching them intelligently. And most dog owners don't realize the importance of properly socializing their puppies to become well-adjusted, confident dogs that do not fear new environments, situations or people. The end result is that a lot of children are bitten by dogs. Please take a moment to read and/or print out the article below, **GOOD DOG SENSE FOR KIDS**, it just might be a life saver!

The Ark of San Juan
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Good Dog Sense For Kids

For Your Safety With an Unfamiliar Dog

- If a strange dog comes running toward you, BE A TREE! Stand still and do not run from the dog.
- If you would like to pet a dog you do not know, always ask the person with the dog if it is okay, then scratch under his chin. Do not pat him on the head.
- Never have anything in your hand that might scare a dog, (like a stick) when you approach.
- Do not approach a dog suddenly or try to surprise him or her. Let the dog come to you, while you stand sideways.
- Do not ride on a scooter or skateboard toward a dog.
- Dogs prefer to be petted on the chest or on the side of the neck rather than on the head.
- Gently pat the dog. Do not bang on him or her with your hand.
- Dogs do not like hugs and kisses like people do, even though some dogs may like to kiss or lick you.
- Do not hug a strange dog.
- Do not tease a dog.
- Do not blow in a dog's face, pull a dog's tail, or try to lift a dog off the ground.
- Be careful not to bother a dog who is sleeping, eating, or taking care of puppies.
- Never take a bone or a toy from a strange dog's mouth.
- Do not play "tug of war" or rough games with a strange dog.

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For Your Dog's Safety

- Your dog should always wear a tag on its collar telling his or her name, address and a phone number to call if he or she gets lost.
- It is a good idea to have your dog micro chipped, because that identification is permanent and will not fall off.
- Make sure your dog's collar fits correctly and will not easily slip off.
- Always use a leash when walking your dog. A six foot leash is better than a retractable leash, because it gives you more control. Do not yank on the leash or jerk your dog's neck with a leash. The Ark recommends a step-in harness, which is easier on the dog, as any pull is on its shoulders rather than on its neck. How would you like to be pulled around by your neck?
- Never leave a dog in a parked car with the windows rolled up. Even with the windows open, the car will become very hot on warm days. On very hot days it may be better to leave your dog at home.
- Your dog should be examined by a veterinarian at least once a year.
- Make sure your dog gets all of the shots required for good health.
- Dogs in San Juan Capistrano must be licensed with the Orange County Animal Care Center every year.

Tips for Caring for Your Dog

- Your dog should be exercised each day either by walking, playing ball, playing Frisbee, or all of the above.
- It is important to brush and bathe your dog regularly to get rid of extra hair and to keep his or her coat healthy. Be careful not to get soap or shampoo in the dog's eyes.

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- Make sure your dog has a safe place to play. A fenced in yard with a closed gate is best. Make sure there are no pieces of broken glass, sharp objects, or poisonous materials in the play area.
- Dogs like to have a special place of their own, like a bed or a crate in which to sleep.
- Help to keep your dog from getting bored when you are away. Leave safe toys or treats to keep your dog busy.
- Dogs like a regular routine. They are creatures of habit, so providing a regular time for feeding, exercising, treat time, and potty time will help make a happy dog.
- Never chain your dog to a tree or a post. You would not want to be chained to a post and neither does your dog.
- When your dog is old enough, he should be neutered if a male, and spayed, if a female.
- Never yell at or hit your dog—not with your hand or with a newspaper. Dogs do not like to be yelled at or hit any more than you do.
- Talk to your dog nicely and often. The dog may not understand all of your words, but he or she will love to hear your kind voice.
- Be a loyal and patient friend and companion to your dog. Be good to your dog, and your dog will be good to you and love you for being his or her companion

Feeding Your Dog

- Make sure your dog always has fresh clean water to drink, both inside the house and outside.
- Give your dog a nutritionally balanced diet.
- Do not feed your dog from the table when you are eating. Feeding a dog from your table teaches him or her bad habits—like begging or bothering people while they are eating.

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- Your dog should never be fed grapes, raisins, onions or chocolate. Do not leave chocolates on a counter or table low enough that your dog could reach them, as chocolate can easily poison and kill a dog.

Dog Courtesy

- Carry doggie walk bags when you take your dog for a walk and always clean up after your dog.
- Do not assume that all dogs are friendly and want your dog to come up to them. Some dogs are frightened of other dogs.
- Distract your dog if you notice that he or she is staring at another dog, or move your dog away from the other dog.
- Only approach another dog with your dog, when you know that your dog knows the other dog and both will greet each other politely.
- Do not allow your dog to remain in your yard and bark continuously.

Training Your Dog

- Did you know that your dog wants to be your best friend? Your dog does not want to disappoint you. He or she just wants to be part of the family. Your dog wants to please you but does not always know how. When a dog knows what is expected, its behavior will show it. Training is one of the most important tools of raising a dog. A well trained dog is a polite dog and is by far a safer and happier dog. You will be happier, too, if your dog is well trained.
- Dogs should be taught to obey basic commands like "sit", "down", "come", "stay", and "leave it". Take your dog to a group training session or have your dog work with a trainer at your home.
- Teach your dog not to jump up on people. Sometimes you may have to get some help from the people, themselves. For example, you may have to ask the person not to encourage your dog to jump on him or her.

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- You can also teach your dog to do fun things like “shake”, “roll over”, and “find it”.
- You can learn a lot about training your dog from reading books about dogs and their training.

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