



dogs 'n' kids

A dog in the family...

Pet ownership can help children to:

- learn to care for and nurture others.
- develop a sense of responsibility.
- establish a daily exercise routine.
- develop friendships.

Tips for parents and kids...

- ALWAYS SUPERVISE dogs and kids together or separate them.
- teach children and your dog how to behave and to be gentle with each other.
- leave a dog alone if it is sleeping, eating, growling, backing away, raises the hair on its back or stares at you.
- if approached by an unfamiliar dog; stand still like a statue, arms by your side, hands in a fist and do not scream. Look down at your feet.

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Tips for dog owners...

- choose the right dog.
- teach your dog good manners such as “come”, “stay”, “sit” and “drop” and to walk safely on a loose lead.
- register your dog with the local council and know the local laws.
- keep your dog in the yard.
- use a leash when required.
- always pick up your dog’s faeces.
- exercise and safely socialise your dog with kids, adults and other dogs throughout its life.
- keep your dog healthy.
- consider desexing if not intended for breeding.

If wanting to pat a dog...

- teach your child to always ask you and the dog owner.
- parent model first and always closely supervise.
- approach the dog on an angle, move slowly, curl your fingers and allow the dog to sniff the back of your hand, then stroke the dog gently on the chest or under the chin. Always be gentle.
- Wash your hands afterwards.

For more information contact...

The *Dogs 'n' Kids Information Resource Kit* contains a more comprehensive booklet, display poster and multilingual brochures. It aims to empower health professionals, parents and children with information to reduce the incidence and severity of dog bites to children.

The Safety Centre

The Royal Children’s Hospital
03) 9345 5085
www.rch.org.au/safetycentre
Email safetycentre@rch.org.au

The Petcare Information and Advisory Service

Toll Free: 1800 631 784
www.petnet.com.au
Email petcare@petnet.com.au

Kidsafe nationwide

The **Royal Children’s**
Hospital Melbourne

