

# **DOG SAFETY FOR CHILDREN**

Not all dogs are friendly to children. Some of them may not be feeling well or simply do not want to be bothered. For the safety of your children and you, and others' pets, please speak to your children about proper ways to interact with dogs. Here is a list of behaviors every child needs to know:

## **Things Not to Do**

- 1. Don't dress up dogs**
- 2. Don't kiss, hug or pick up dogs**
- 3. Don't pet dogs on the top of the head**
- 4. Don't yell, scare, hurt or tease dogs**
- 5. Don't be bossy or make dogs do things they don't want to do**
- 6. Don't go up to dogs when they're eating or chewing**
- 7. Don't put your face in dogs' faces**
- 8. Don't take anything from dogs, even if it's yours. Ask a grownup for help**

## **Things to Do**

- 1. Pet dogs gently with one hand, collar to tail**
- 2. Sit with dogs, not on them**
- 3. Learn what dogs are saying and listen when they need you**
- 4. Be kind. Do things dogs like**
- 5. Always invite dogs into your space instead of going into theirs**
- 6. Walk away from dogs when they're in crates or resting anywhere**
- 7. Train and play with dogs using treats and toys**
- 8. Let grown-ups take care of dogs which have something they shouldn't have.**

Living with dogs enriches children's lives. Taking care of a dog is an excellent way of teaching a child to take responsibility, express empathy, get some exercise, and to have fun. Dogs can also significantly help to raise a child's self-esteem. But it is the responsibility of adults; especially parents, to make sure that these valuable child/dog relationships are nurtured so that one understands the other.