

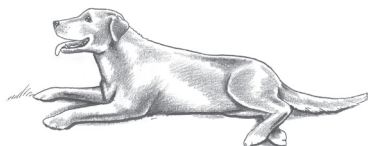
Keeping Our Children Safe Around Dogs

A new dog safety booklet for parents and caregivers has been published online by the University of Waikato at <http://hdl.handle.net/10289/931>

This booklet provides research-based practical guidelines for safe interaction between children and pet dogs. Page 3 of this parents' booklet provides links to a safety booklet for older children and a safety leaflet for younger children. There are also versions in Te Reo Māori. The dog safety tips are summarised below.

FOR PARENTS & CAREGIVERS:

- Supervise children at all times when they are interacting with a dog – especially visiting children;
- Never leave your baby (or young child) and dog alone together even to answer the door or go to the toilet – take either one of them with you;
- Never tie a dog leash to the baby's pram – hold it in your hand;
- Consider putting a muzzle on your dog if it's tied up in a public place - this protects both children and your dog;
- Discourage children from disciplining a dog.



TEACH CHILDREN:

- Not to approach a dog that is eating, sleeping, has puppies or is hurt;
- To be as still as 'a statue' if a dog rushes at them (they need to drop any food or toys they are holding and stand still and straight, with feet together, their fists held under their chin and their elbows close against their chest);
- Never stare a dog in the eyes or scream and run away;
- That not all dogs are as friendly as their own dog;
- Always to ask the owner's permission before patting a dog - it's best to pat a dog on the chin chest or side of the neck;
- Never to deliberately tease or annoy dogs.



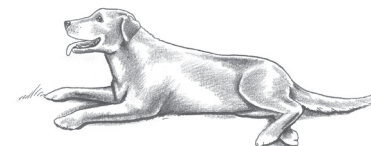
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