



KIDS & DOGS

If you have young children, it is very important that the family dog is friendly, relaxed, healthy, has some training and is well socialised. Most dog attacks reported to hospitals, doctors and councils occur in the dog owners' own home and occur to the dog owners' children or their friends.

Children should be calm and respectful to animals and interact appropriately with dogs and not 'play-fight' or play 'tug-of-war' games with them. Dogs can sometimes get over-excited or frightened if there is a lot of noise or when children are playing loud games and running around.

Parents need to be aware that all dogs can bite, even the faithful long time family pet can lash out if under stress or in pain.

Tips to assist parents in teaching kids how to be safe around dogs

- Never approach a sleeping dog - call from a distance if you need to alert the dog as a startled dog may bite
- Never approach or go to pat unfamiliar dogs without asking the permission of the owner
- Never tease, hurt or provoke a dog
- Approach any dog slowly, hold out your arm, but keep it low with the back of your closed hand facing the dog
- Stroke dogs gently on the chest, shoulder or back, do not pat them on the head
- Stand still if being approached by a strange dog – try not to squeal or jump
- Avoid direct eye contact with an unknown dog as it may feel threatened by this and react aggressively
- Never run and scream as this is prey behaviour and many dogs will chase as a game or as an attack
- Never touch a dog if it lifts its lips, bares teeth, snarls, growls, snaps or raises the hair on its neck or back
- Never approach a dog with puppies as a mother dog may bite if she feels her pups are threatened
- Never approach a dog that is eating - dogs can be protective of their food

REMEMBER - Children should always be supervised around dogs.



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Litchfield Council is committed to encouraging responsible dog ownership within the community.
For more information please contact Council's Animal Management team on 8983 0600

Your dog. Your responsibility.