

Rules to Grow By

Safe Interactions for Dogs and Children

Dogs have to learn a lot to live in our world. They come equipped with canine instincts, not an understanding of human expectations and communication. Establishing appropriate boundaries for people as well as dogs minimizes the risk of miscommunications, builds mutual respect and trust, and develops relationships. This is important even in households with no children, and with ANY dog, not just the family dog!

It's important to model behavior with dogs that we know will be safe for anyone. The child that frequently sees an adult scooping up a small dog may try to do the same, which can be scary for the dog and unsafe for both. Children can also be unpredictable, fast, noisy, moody—which can be stressful for even the calmest dog! At these times, the best boundaries are physical: divide a room with a gate, have dogs and kids in separate rooms with the doors closed, or put the dog in his crate or a pen.



Let a resting dog be



Don't lay on the dog



Let dog eat in peace



Let dog enjoy a chew



Respect dog's space



Hug humans, not dogs



Let dog walk away



Give scared dogs space



Don't run near dogs



Let dog come to you

Teach your dog manners and he'll be comfortable in our world. Set boundaries to prevent behaviors you don't want, then focus on reinforcing behaviors you DO want. Be patient and respect the dog's needs and you'll build a wonderful lifelong bond.

Written by: Lisa Bert, Fingers and Paws Dog Training, CPDT-KA



Fetch the Answer .com

Where finding answers is easy

by: CCPTD

