



Photo by Chris Roberts

Keeping children safe around dogs

Teach your child to be calm and careful around dogs to ensure they stay safe!

- Children should never go near dogs they don't know and only pat or play with a dog if they have asked the owner
- Don't let your children tease your dog or play too roughly with him
- Teach your dog not to jump up at them or be too boisterous as this can lead to accidents
- Tell them never to go near or disturb a dog that is sleeping, eating, ill or injured as dogs may react badly

- Never leave young children unsupervised with any dog, even if it's only for a few minutes
- Make sure you socialise your puppy properly with children and teach him how to behave. Doing this will ensure you have a friendly adult dog that is safe to have around children
- To teach your children more about dogs, visit www.learnwithdogs.co.uk

Be a responsible owner and neuter your dog – it's simply the best choice for you and your pet.

If you are interested in rehoming a dog, supporting Dogs Trust or for more information and factsheets about all aspects of dog ownership, please visit www.dogstrust.org.uk or contact:

**Dogs Trust
17 Wakley Street
London
EC1V 7RQ**

**Tel: 020 7837 0006
Reg. Charity Numbers: 227523
and SC037843**



Staying Safe with Dogs

Knowing how to behave safely around your dog – or any other dog you meet – is very important.

It can be hard to work out what dogs feel or think sometimes, as they can't tell us themselves! But their body language can help us understand dogs better.

Happy Dogs

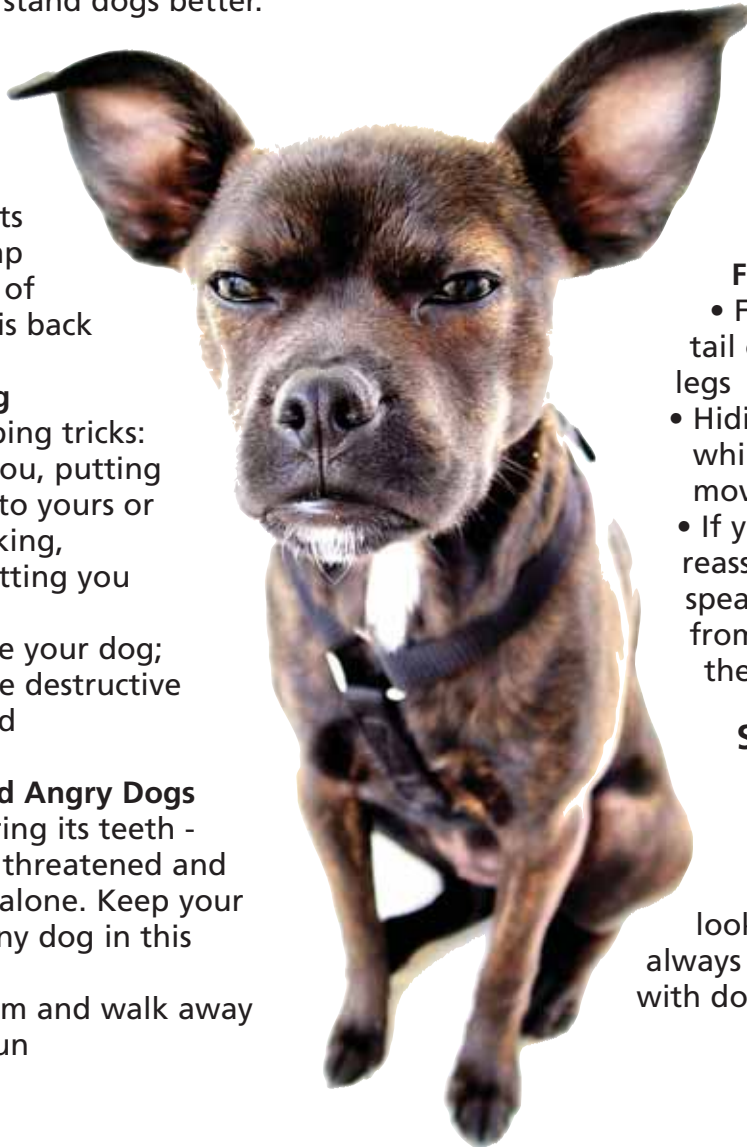
- Relaxed ears and a wagging tail
- A dog that wants to play may jump around in front of you or roll on his back

Attention Seeking

- Attention-grabbing tricks: sitting next to you, putting their face close to yours or in your lap, barking, howling and patting you with a paw
- Don't just ignore your dog; they can become destructive or bad-tempered

Bad-tempered and Angry Dogs

- Growling or baring its teeth - they might feel threatened and want to be left alone. Keep your distance from any dog in this mood
- Always keep calm and walk away slowly – don't run



- Keep your hands in your pockets or cross your arms
- Try not to look directly at the dog

Ill Dogs

- Droopy ears and tail
- Less energetic and 'bouncy' than usual – even grumpy
 - May also lose interest in food
 - A dog can show illness in many different ways, if in doubt talk to your vet

Frightened Dogs

- Flattened ears, lowered tail or tail between their legs
- Hiding behind their owner, whining or growling - move away from the dog
- If your own dog is scared, reassure them; stay calm, speak softly and move away from whatever is making them nervous

Safety around strange dogs

We've all seen dogs out and about that look friendly, but it's always important to take care with dogs you don't know.

- Never rush up to a strange dog or shout loudly near him – this will scare them and they may react angrily
- If you can see the owner and want to pet the dog – ask first, then hold out your hand and let the dog come to you
- Don't stare into a dog's eyes – as this can be seen by the dog as threatening. If a dog growls at you or seems unfriendly, just calmly walk away
- Don't disturb a dog if he's eating, drinking or has been tied up – and always let sleeping dogs lie



Photo by Chris Roberts