

Be safe with dogs

BLUE FOR PETS CROSS

Pets change lives
We change theirs

There are lots of good things about having a dog: they are great friends, they keep you fit and you can learn a lot about caring and being responsible when helping to look after them. Dogs can feel a lot of the things that you can, such as happiness, anger and fear, so it's important that you understand how to behave around dogs at home and outside, so you can enjoy being with them and stay safe.

To stay safe you should not approach when the dog



has a toy



is sick or injured



is sleeping



is eating



is in bed or under a table



is trying to move away



has puppies

Rules around dogs

- Ask the owner before approaching a dog
- Never touch a dog that is left alone
- Don't enter a garden if a dog is loose
- Never run or shout around a dog
- Do not hug a dog. How would you feel if a stranger hugged you?
- Do not play chase games with a dog
- Never sneak up and surprise a dog
- Never hit or hurt a dog
- When you meet a new dog or one you don't know well, always let the dog sniff your hand first as that is the polite doggy way to say hello

Top reasons dogs bite

- Protecting themselves or their property
- Pain
- Trapped
- Surprised by your actions
- Excitement



If a strange dog runs up to you

- Stand still
- Make no noise
- Drop food or toys away from you
- Fold your arms
- Look away from the dog
- Move away slowly
- Never run

If you are knocked to the ground

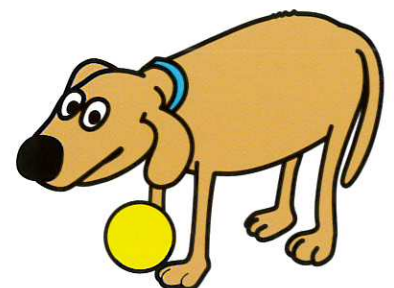
- Roll up into a ball with your face to the ground
- Make no sound
- Cover your face with your hands

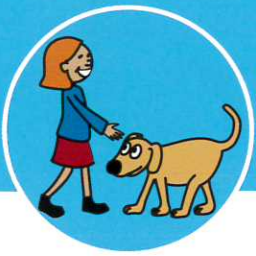


Of the people who get bitten

70%
of bites
happen in
the home

80%
are bitten by
dogs that they
regularly meet





Dog body language - read the signs



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Go away



I am afraid. I'm covering away from you and may hide under furniture. See how my ears are flat back. I may show my teeth, snarl or growl.



I am bold and am standing my ground. Look at how the hair on my back is raised and how tense my body is.

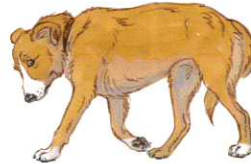


I don't want my tummy tickled. I am really scared. I moved away from you and rolled on my back, and my tail is tucked between my legs. I am so scared that if you come to tickle me, I might think you are going to hurt me and I might bite.

I'm not sure about you yet



I'm moving slowly and lowering my head. My paw is raised and I may lick my lips to show I am a little unsure.



I am moving away from you with my head lower than my shoulders. I have tucked my tail away and may glance over my shoulder and show the white of my eye.



My head is lowered and my tail is tucked away. I am looking at you sideways and may yawn to show I am not sure about you.

Happy to meet you



My body is relaxed. Look how my ears are forward or relaxed and my tongue is hanging. I am wagging my tail and my body.



I am down in a play bow - I want you to play with me! My front legs are straight forward and my back end is raised. My tail is high and wagging. I may bark to get your attention.



My tail is wagging. You can tell from my face that I'm interested and alert - look how relaxed my jaw is and my tongue is hanging down.

Blue Cross

Blue Cross is a charity that has been helping sick, injured, abandoned and homeless pets since 1897. Pets help us in so many ways and they depend entirely on us. That's why at Blue Cross we believe in helping pets because pets help us. We help thousands of pets every month and with your support we can give back to more pets in need.

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