

LET'S NOT FORGET "D" FOR DOGS:

Dogs don't have an innate understanding of how we live and communicate and especially how we expect them to behave. Unfortunately for them, they don't get to choose where they live or who they live with. They just try their best to cope in a world that sometimes is very complicated for them. They only have one language and a hard wiring that keeps them safe for their survival.

The dog's language is varied, and most people don't recognise it. They only recognise the vocal sounds like snarling, growling, snapping and biting. These are the signals that result in harsh punishment for the dog when in fact they have given many warnings beforehand.

Dogs are not confrontational; they don't want to hurt children, but if Adults don't learn their language and supervise, children will continue to get hurt and dogs as a result, will continue to die.

We owe it to "Man's Best Friend" to honour that friendship and empathise with the situations and surroundings we place them.

Let's work together to keep Children and Dogs Safe!

FACTS AND REFERENCES:

Did you know:

- Approx. 40% of Australian households own a dog.
- The most recent stats show that 2 people die and around 13,000 end up in hospital each year from dog bites.
- Most children bitten are between the ages of 5 - 9 years of age.
- Boys are bitten more often than girls.
- 70% of bites involve a dog known to the child.
- Empathy is not developed till children are 12 - 13 years of age.

A must read for dog owners:

- On Talking Terms with Dogs: Calming Signals ~ by world renowned Norwegian Dog Trainer and Author Turid Rugaas.

For more information and assistance to keep children and dogs safe - give these guys a call:

Complete Canine Communication
148 South Pine Road
ENOGGERA QLD 4051
07 3855 3555
www.completepet.com.au



KEEPING CHILDREN & DOGS SAFE



The **A B C & D's** of how together we can keep Children and Dogs Safe.
It's up to the Adults to make this happen.
LET'S GET STARTED

LET'S START WITH "A" FOR ADULTS:

Adults are mature, fully developed, legally & morally responsible for their actions. This also involves the responsibility and welfare of children, dogs and ALL animals. Adults must always supervise children. Children should never be left alone or with dogs.



Supervision doesn't just mean being in the same room, it means observing the behaviour of dogs and

observing the behaviour of children. Adults must lead by example and educate children to respect dogs.

Most accidents happen because Adults are not supervising, children expect too much from the dog or they simply don't understand when the dog has had enough

- X Never leave children and dogs alone
- ✓ Provide a safe place for dogs to go
- ✓ Provide a quiet feeding area for dogs
- ✓ Provide a quiet sleeping area for dogs
- ✓ Be aware of how dogs are feeling
- ✓ Learn Behaviour (Calming Signals)
- ✓ Teach Children slowly down / don't run!

LET'S GO TO "B" FOR BEHAVIOUR:

Behaviour and language is displayed in many ways and is known as 'Calming Signals'. This language is understood by all dogs and dogs assume we understand it too. Dogs have over 30+ different Calming Signals to communicate, express how they are feeling or diffuse a situation before it arises. Dogs also express their intentions through sounds like whining, barking and growling.

Sadly, when dogs try to express themselves, they are usually punished. If we are going to co-exist with dogs, we must learn to know how they are feeling and what they are telling us.

Some of the more common 'Calming Signals' tell us when the dog is feeling uncomfortable:

- ✓ Lip Licking
- ✓ Yawning
- ✓ Turning the head to one side
- ✓ Turning the body away
- ✓ Freezing
- ✓ Trying to move away
- ✓ Growling
- ✓ Barking
- ✓ Showing teeth
- ✓ Dropping to the ground
- ✓ Lifting a paw
- ✓ Wide eyes / whaling eyes

MOVING ON TO "C" FOR CHILDREN:

Children and dogs enjoy each other's company, there is no doubt about that! But children are not responsible enough to be left alone with dogs and dogs are not able to tell children when enough is enough. Children can be unpredictable, frightening or just too exciting from a dog's point of view.

Tips for Children:

- ✓ Calling the dog to you, gives the dog the option to accept or decline
- ✓ Always be gentle and kind
- ✓ Always move slowly
- ✓ Don't run

- x Never approach an eating dog
- x Never approach a sleeping dog
- x Never approach a dog!!
- x Never take a dog's toys away
- x Never hit, tease or smack a dog
- x Never ride, hug or kiss a dog
- x Don't scream
- x Don't pull ears
- x Don't pull tails
- x Don't poke eyes

People don't feel happy all the time and dogs have bad days too, but they can't tell us. Please be respectful of their space, their body and things. Be kind and considerate always.