

Safety and Awareness around Your Dog... and When you meet a dog you don't know...



*Safety and Awareness Around Your Dog... and When You
Meet a Dog You Don't Know... by Allie Brophy*

Educational
Project For
School Age
Children

**Educational Project for School Age Children to help promote
Awareness, Safety and Responsible behaviour around all
dogs**

Topics Covered

Never Hug Or Stroke A Dog You Don't Know

Always Ask The Owner AND The Dog For Permission First

Always Keep Your Face Away From Dogs

Never Squeeze Or Grab A Dog And Don't Try To Pick Them Up

Keeping Safe With Your Own Dog

Always Treat Dogs With Kindness And Respect

Never Approach When A Dog Is Playing With A Bone Or Toy

Never Disturb A Dog When He Is Sleeping Or Eating His Food

Always Clean Up After Your Dog During Walks

Behaving Responsibly Around Dogs

Bad Owners

Good Owners

Dogs Have Feelings Too

Some Important Points To Remember

Young Children And Babies Must Always Be Supervised Around Dogs

Never Approach A Dog With Her Puppies, In A Car, Or If Tied Up Outside A Shop

Every Dog Is Different Just Like Every Person Is Different

Sometimes Dogs Don't Like Each Other

Encourage Good Behaviour Towards Cats And Other Animals

Stay Away From A Dog You Don't Know And What To Do If A Stray Dog Approaches You

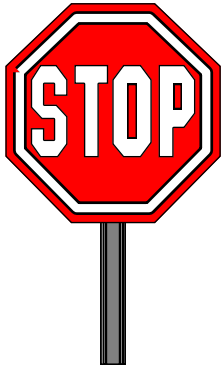
Dogs Are Part Of Our Family Too

Always Report Anyone You See Being Cruel Towards An Animal

Love And Respect Your Pet

Educational Project prepared for School age Children by Allie Brophy to help promote awareness, welfare, safety and responsible behaviour around all dogs. Thank you to everyone for kind permission of use of their photographs in this project and also to Anna Maria Quilliam. I do not own any of the pictures or diagrams used in this Presentation © August 2012

Safety and Awareness around Your Dog ... and When you meet a dog you don't know..



Think Smart!

Wait First, Think, AND ASK...

NEVER go into a garden where a dog is tied up or outside if you do not know the dog well and he doesn't know you - He may think you are a burglar!!!



Always wait until an adult is with you before meeting any dog you don't know. Ask the owner's permission **first** to stroke or pet their dog. If their dog is feeling tired, grumpy, ill or stressed he may not want to be petted right then or approached by anyone, especially strangers. When we feel tired or ill we don't always feel sociable ourselves or want hugs.

NEVER HUG OR STROKE A DOG YOU DON'T KNOW - To the dog you are a stranger, he does not know who you are and may not like being touched or stroked by people he doesn't know. He may struggle to get away from you or even bite. And **Never** try to kiss a strange dog on their face. Instead gently stroke their chest or the side of their neck.

As well as asking the owner for permission you must also ask the dog. Let the dog sniff you or let him come to you and show signs of happiness **first** before you pet the dog. **Never** hold out your fingers or touch him on top of his head.

ask the dog.



If he looks scared, growls or backs away **leave him alone**.

Don't put your hands in the dog's face or try to pick him up as this may scare him. He can get frightened if too many people crowd around him and this may cause him to panic or nip. Dogs feel worried just like us if strangers approach them and you must always first ask the owner, as they are responsible for the dog. If you are with an adult check with them too that it is ok if the owner has given permission.

Pet the dog gently under the chin. Be gentle. Sometimes a dog may be scared if a person he doesn't know goes to pat them on their head or hug them as he doesn't know that you are friendly until he gets to know you and he may not want to be hugged. Always keep your face away from dogs.



If a dog is over excited and happy they may jump up to try and kiss you. Always keep your head up high or turn your back away from the dog so they don't accidentally bump you on the face while saying hello.

Never stare a dog in the eye, he may think you are challenging him.

Never squeeze or grab a dog, and don't try to pick them up because this can frighten them too and make them feel uncomfortable. A dog may have a sore tummy for example or may not be used to strangers and could bite you if they are feeling anxious, unwell or scared.

There can be many reasons why a dog may not want to be hugged or



stroked by people. Sometimes a dog is not feeling well or is too hot from the heat, he could be being bitten by fleas and feels fed up, he just wants to go home and rest or he needs a drink of water and some food to eat.

KEEPING SAFE WITH YOUR OWN DOG

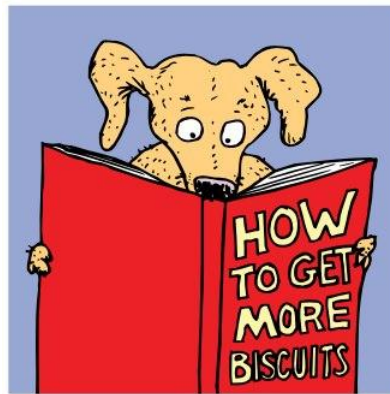
Dogs are not toys, they are real living breathing animals and they feel pain and hurt just like we do. They are part of the family and live as our companions. We must treat them with love, compassion and understanding.

If someone hurts us we are able to cry, shout or ask them to stop. Dogs can't speak so they can't tell us they are sore or that they feel scared, and they can't ask you to stop so they may bite instead if they are in pain.



We must avoid this from happening and always keep them and ourselves **safe** at all times by acting responsibly around animals.

Dogs must **always** be treated with kindness and understanding of their needs and behaviours just like us. They need to be **taught** toilet training and may sometimes have 'accidents' inside the house when they are unable to get outside. You must **Never** scream at them or hurt them. When someone shouts or screams at us when we make a mistake how does that make **us** feel? Dogs are like children and they learn from **us** so we must teach them positively. We give them treats and rewards for good behaviour. Sometimes we may need to call in a dog trainer to help us with any problems so that we can make things better for ourselves and the dog too. This is being a good responsible owner and it helps our dogs build up their confidence and become better behaved.



Dogs just like us, need food, water, a safe place to sleep, warm bedding, and toys to play with. Leaving music on for dogs when you leave the house for short periods helps soothe and relax them so they do not feel 'alone'.

Dogs love to see people at home being happy and kind to each other as they pick up how we feel, especially through their leads during walks and this affects them too. They can feel very frightened if they hear people shouting and fighting. A good happy and healthy home environment is very important and also helps to raise a happier dog.

Dogs like to chew things, especially when they are puppies. Keep your best shoes out of reach while a puppy is teething and give your dog some chews and toys to play with instead so they don't get bored or frustrated.

When a dog is playing with a bone or a toy you must **NEVER** approach him.



He may think you are trying to take his bone away from him and may try to bite you. Leave him alone with his bone. **This is very important that you remember.**

NEVER disturb a dog when he is sleeping or eating his food. This is his time to himself that he likes away from people and he must be left alone to eat. How would you feel if you were hungry and someone took your dinner away from you? Dogs must be left to eat their dinner in peace just like us. Always clean up after your dog when you are out on walks. Using a nappy sack or any bag you **must** put any toilet mess in a bin.



Parents should supervise all contact between children and dogs, and end this contact if the dog is getting over-excited, anxious, or if the child is bothering the dog. If there is a lot of noise and activity going on or strange people around, the dog may be happier in a crate or in another part of the house where it is quieter.

NEVER run and scream loudly where there are dogs around because it could make them feel very scared and cause them to possibly chase or attack like they would instinctively out in the wild. And **always** remember to keep gates CLOSED to stop your dog from escaping out onto the roads.



There are no 'bad' dogs, only bad owners. Any breed of dog can be a wonderful family companion with good people who are responsible and willing to do the work to train their dogs, to teach them good behaviour or try to correct any problems. Before you take on a dog first do some research and decide if the kind of dog you are looking for fits into your family, your daily routine and that you understand the breed first and are able to give the dog a good happy forever home.



Any dog big or small takes work, patience and understanding. They are a brand new member of your family and need time to settle in. Adopting a dog from a rescue centre can offer a wonderful new and exciting opportunity for both you, your family and your special dog companion. Dogs can also very quickly settle well into a new home. Most dogs can follow family rules, be easily trained, and they enjoy having company. A dog can also provide protection by barking when strangers are around

Dogs love being part of your family and are very loyal pets.



Bad owners are people who are cruel to their dogs, who neglect them, abuse them, or train them aggressively. This is **wrong**. Dogs who are treated aggressively are likely to become aggressive in turn. Treating any dog badly is wrong and can also get the owner in a lot of trouble.



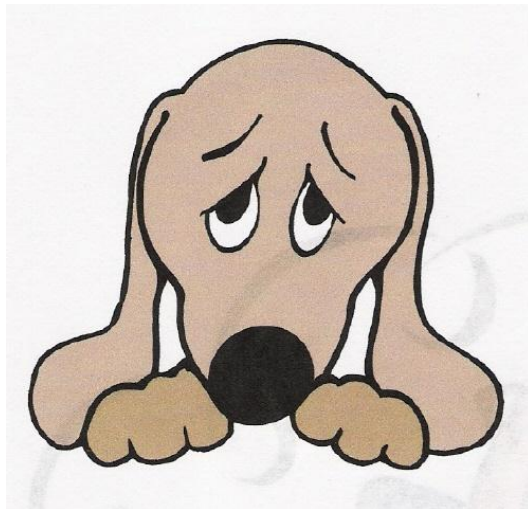
Good owners look after their dogs well, they are responsible and caring. They make sure their dogs have everything they need such as good food and water, and a safe warm place to sleep that is comfortable, and they register their dogs with a good vet to look after their health. They take their dogs out walking, spend time with them and if needed they take their dogs to a training class to help sort out any problems for the dog and owner. A good dog trainer can help you and your dog enormously.



DOGS HAVE FEELINGS TOO

You must NEVER ever hit, kick or shout at a dog or pull his ears or tail. This is wrong, it hurts him and this could cause him an injury. It can also frighten him very much which may then cause him to growl, nip or even bite you. You would not want anyone to do this to you so please do not do this to a dog. How do you think he will feel?

Hurting an animal deliberately can also get you in trouble. If you see



anyone either on their own or in a group, if they are deliberately hurting an animal or causing them pain **please tell a responsible adult.**

You could save their life.

SOME IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Young children especially babies or toddlers must **NEVER** ever be left alone with any dog. Never let younger children pull a dog's ears or tail, this could cause a dog to become very scared and if a dog is scared they may bite to let you know they are frightened. Make sure a responsible adult is around you at all times and a baby is **NEVER** left alone.

There must always be a responsible adult supervising to ensure everyone including the dog is kept safe.



Don't poke them or prod them, they FEEL.



Dogs can become terrified of babies or children's loud screams, and running around and waving as they play. Dogs are very sensitive and they react to the tone of our voices so hearing a toddler's screams could really hurt a dog's ears, make him feel stressed and cause him to panic. They do not understand each other or how to behave around one another so young children should ALWAYS be supervised with ANY dog - big or small.

Stay away from a dog when he is eating his food, sleeping, playing with a bone or drinking. This is his private space and time where he likes to be left alone. If he wants to come to you he will, but **Never** disturb him.



If you see a dog tied up outside a shop remember **NEVER** to tease or approach the dog, they may possibly bite you if they are scared and do not know you. **Don't** crowd around or approach dogs sat inside a car either as this can also frighten them. **Never** approach a dog with her puppies. Dogs protect their babies and may think you are trying to hurt them.

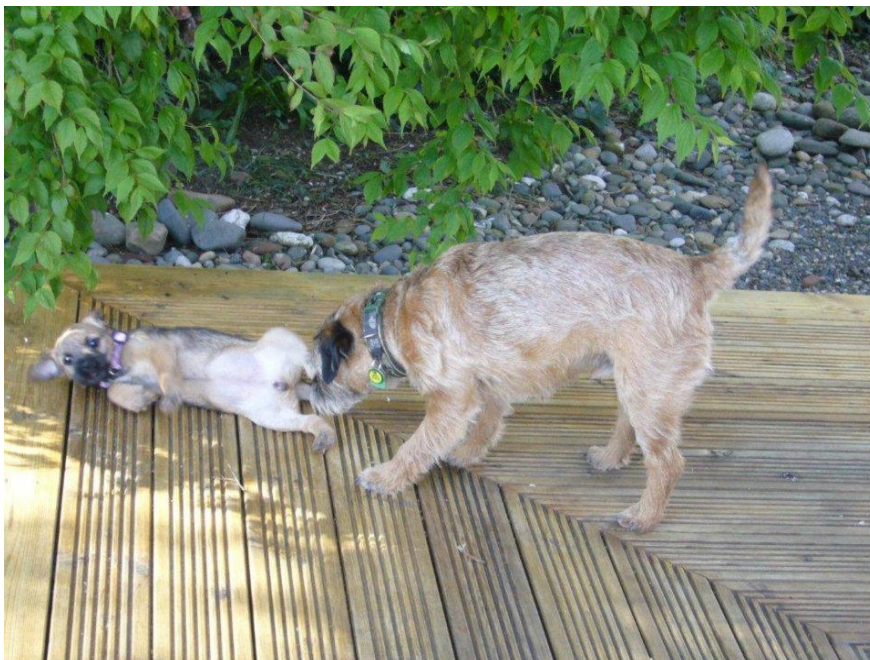


Every dog is different just like every person is different.



They all have their own personality, feelings, likes and dislikes about playing, meeting people and how close they prefer other dogs getting to them. They can easily learn new tricks, and are used to obeying a leader.

Some dogs feel comfortable when meeting other strange dogs, but many dogs prefer first to be introduced to them properly and slowly over a period of time before they feel at ease. Not all dogs feel comfortable about other dogs coming up to them in the street especially if they don't know them as this could cause them to feel afraid and perhaps protective of you if they think you may be in danger.



Dogs like to sniff each other first which helps them identify the other dog if they are male or female.

Not all dogs like or get along with each other just like some humans don't like or get along with each other. And just as sometimes humans may shout at each other or tell someone to go away, dogs may growl, snarl or bark at another dog. This is their way of giving a warning by saying 'back off' and can sometimes be if they are nervous, ill or not properly trained or socialised yet with other dogs. Sometimes it can also be due to a dog having had a bad experience with another dog and is now afraid of other dogs or simply he does not like other dogs so **be careful** when out walking.



You must always be respectful around animals and take care not to hurt them, even accidentally. If you step on his tail or his paw or hurt his ears he cannot tell you he is in pain so he may bite instead. Dogs have feelings like us so if you poke him in the eye or kick him how do you think this will make him feel? Dogs feel pain too but they cannot tell us they are hurting which is what may cause them to bite.

Dogs can become very sad and afraid when they hear people shouting and screaming and this sometimes can cause a dog to bite, as he doesn't know what's going on and can think it's his fault everyone is shouting.



How do you think this dog feels? Have you ever felt this way?

You must always make sure you keep your dog on the lead when you are out walking and keep him close to you. Just because a dog growls or barks it does not mean they are 'aggressive', it is their way of saying they don't like the other dog so you need to **keep your dog away**.

If your dog growls or snaps at another dog pull him away immediately from the other dog and tell him NO!! If this is an anxiety issue then taking your dog to a good trainer can help with this and help build your confidence and skills too.

Walks should be an enjoyable experience for both you AND your dog.



Dogs sometimes try to chase cats, but **never ever** let your dog be aggressive towards a cat or other animal or try to hurt them. Encourage good behaviour in your dog by showing respect towards other animals and teaching your dog to do the same. This is being a good responsible pet owner. All animals have feelings just like us and it is wrong to harm them.



If you see any child or adult deliberately hurting a dog or other animal **REPORT it immediately** to a responsible adult or teacher.

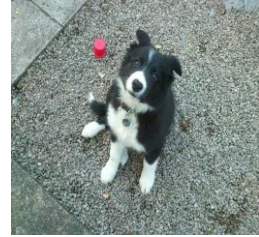
Have you ever found yourself lost in town and felt worried or scared as you looked around to find your parents? Dogs can feel like this too if they are lost. Stray dogs are often scared if they have lost their owner and they may bite if they see a stranger approach them and they think you are going to hurt them. **Stay away** from a dog you see wandering by himself. Let an adult know if you see a dog by himself and ask them to help. Never run away from a dog and never ever hit or yell at a dog. He will think you are going to hurt him and may try to protect himself and hurt you because he is scared.



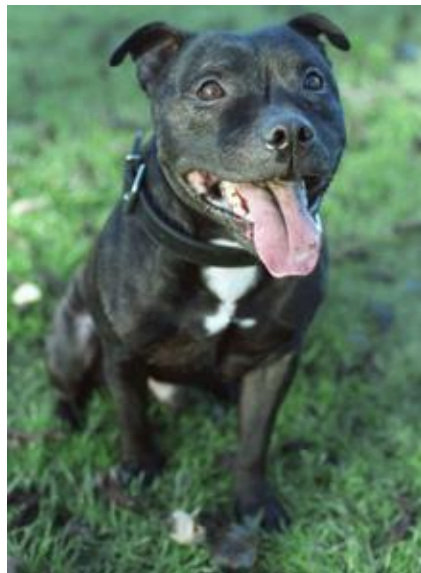
If a stray dog does approach you, stand very still like a tree so that he knows you are safe and won't hurt him. Look away from the dog, don't speak, and in your head count very slowly to yourself until he loses interest and goes away. **NEVER** throw anything at a dog or try to make him aggressive.

That is **NOT** responsible behaviour and is very unfair to the dog.

Some dogs can be trained to work, rescue, or be trained as therapy dogs.



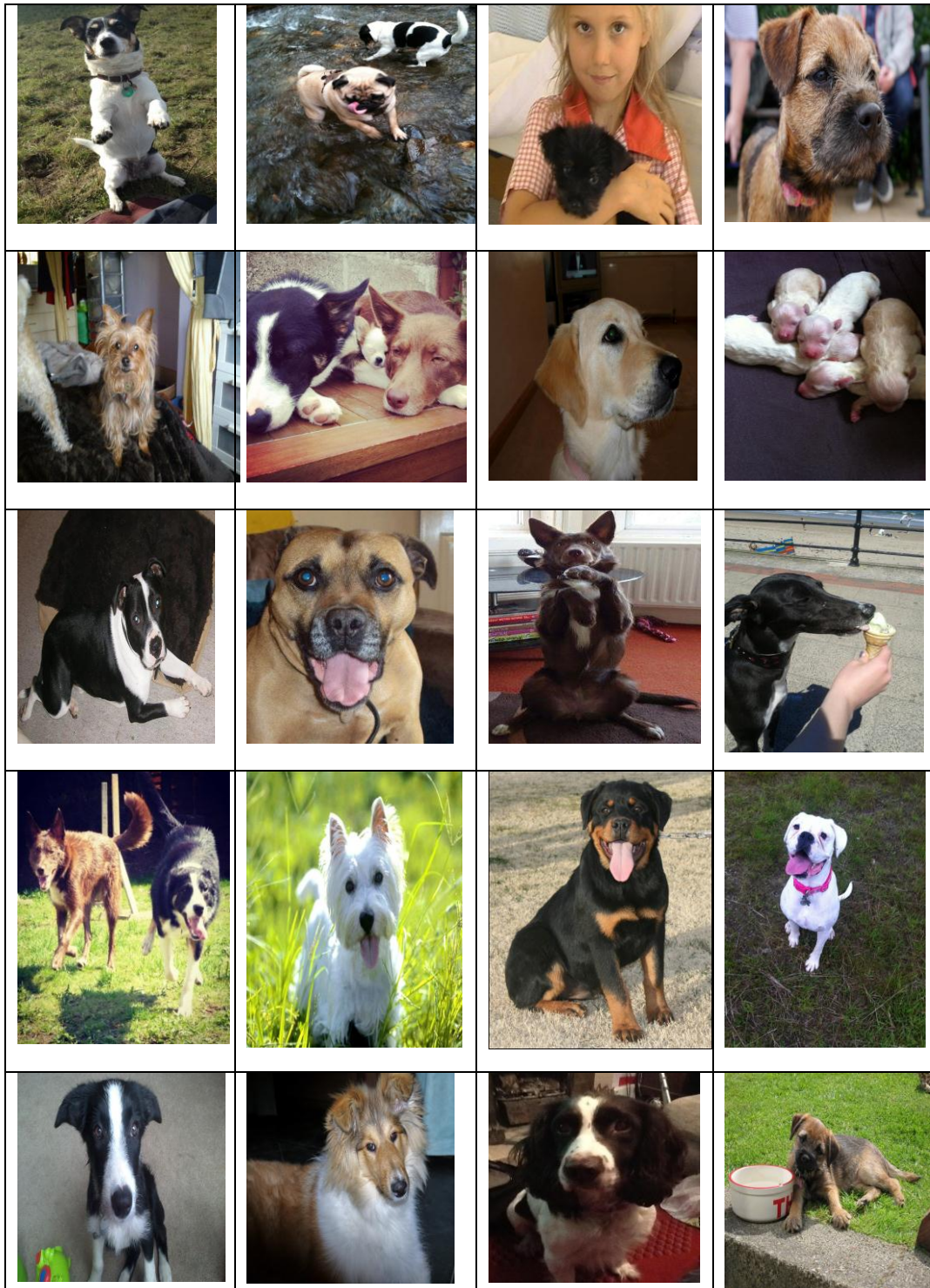
Always be kind to an animal. Be gentle and remember - they can't talk for themselves, they feel pain just like we do. They are part of our family, we are responsible for them and must teach them how to behave and they learn this from training and watching from our behaviours too. Animals are a gift to us, as we can be to them. They can bring us so much love, joy and happiness if treated with kindness - so never ever hurt them.

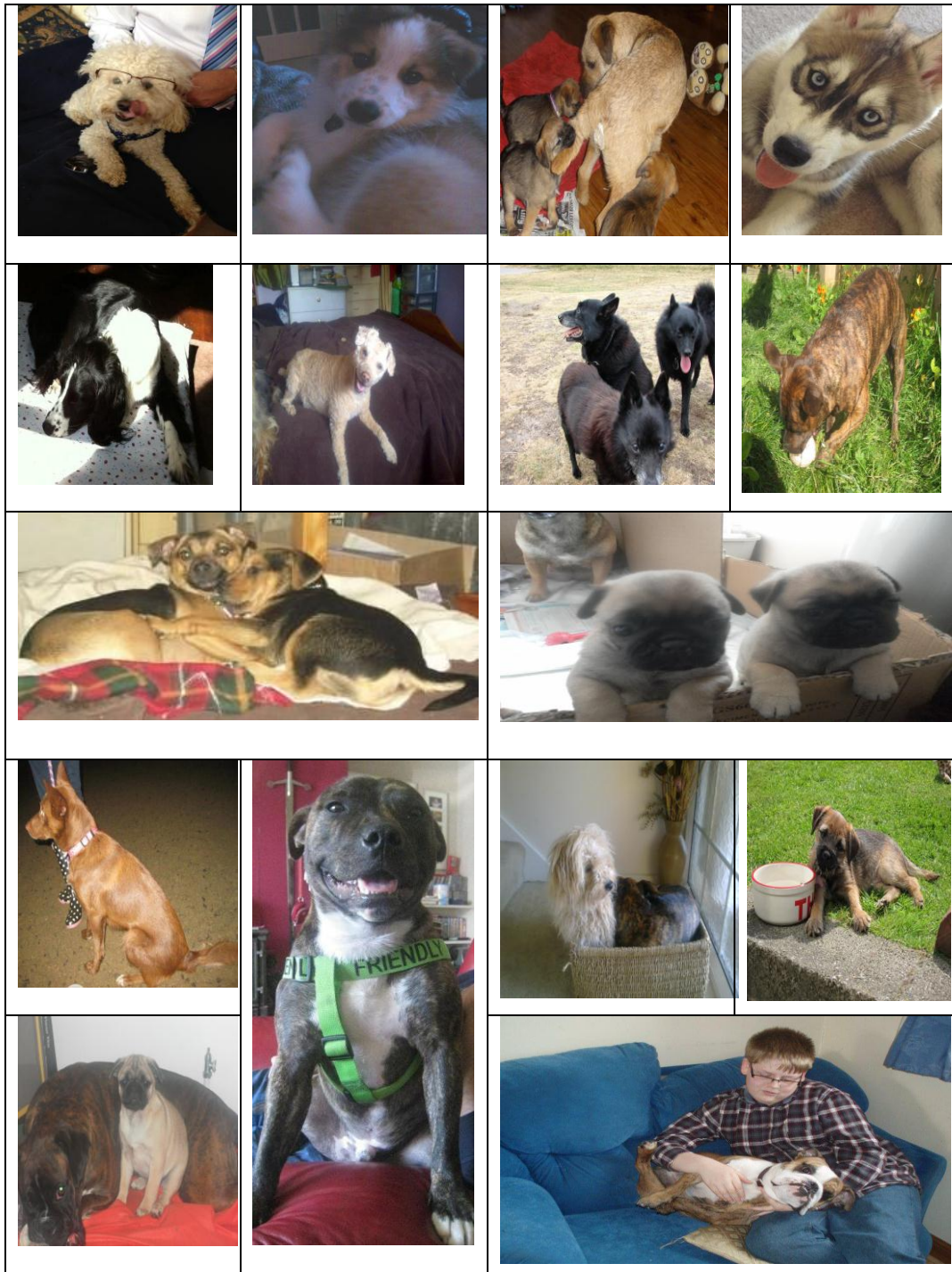


To be a responsible owner it starts with YOU.

Photo (above) courtesy of Jonathan Littlejohn M.A.,B.A. Freelance Photographer 14 Panmure Place Edinburgh EH3 9JJ Tel:0131 229 5079 Mobile:07950 379 293 <http://littlejohn.smugmug.com/> <http://www.alamy.com/stock-photography/11C72A3B-DF05-4ED0-8484-68200BF4B691/Jonathan+Littlejohn.html>

Every dog is different just like every person is different





All pets come with a big responsibility, whether you have a cat, dog, bird, fish or rabbit. You are responsible for their well-being and it is up to you to care for and look after your pet the same as you would a member of your family. You must **NEVER** harm any living animal or creature whether it is a cat, dog, seagull, or any farm animal. Always **report** anyone you see being cruel towards animals, birds or wildlife. Remember animals cannot speak for themselves or ask someone to stop hurting them. Love and respect your pet and he will love and trust you.

Think smart and be responsible.



Quiz

What must you always do before approaching a dog you don't know?

What could happen if you grab or squeeze a dog?

Why must you keep your face away from a dog's?

Can a dog tell us if they are in pain?

How do you think he would communicate his pain to you for example if you pulled his ears or stepped on his paw?

Who can help you and your dog if there are any problems?

How do you think people shouting and fighting around a dog would make him feel?

What must you remember to do when a dog is eating, sleeping or chewing a bone?

Why is this?

What must you remember to do with any toilet mess when you are out on walks with your dog?

Why is this?

How do you think a dog may react if people are running around screaming?

What do you think is a 'good owner'?

What do you think is a 'bad owner'?

If you see anyone deliberately hurting an animal what must you do?

Why is this?

Why is it important to never ever leave a baby or small child alone with any dog?

Who is responsible for making sure they properly supervise children around dogs at all times?

Why must you never approach a dog tied up outside a shop or with their puppies?

What could happen if you and your friends crowd around a dog?

Why must you keep your dog on a lead during walks?

If a strange dog approaches you what should you do?

How do you think a dog would feel if you hurt him?

How do you think a dog would feel if you treated him with kindness?

What can you do to be a good owner to your dog and to keep you and your dog safe?

Why must you treat all animals with kindness?



Thank you...

Drawings (above) by Anna Maria Quilliam

WORD SEARCH

Can You Find The 20 Words Below?

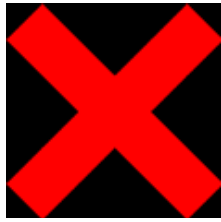
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N	A	A	K	J	Y	J	E
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I	S	A	R	T	E	P	O
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R	A	R	O	U	L	D	H
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WAIT ASK THE OWNER ANIMALS TREAT
BONE TRAINING VET HEALTH
PUPPY LEAD WALKS CAT
GOOD BE KIND HAPPY FRIENDLY
ADULT JUMP TREE HELP

Did you find them all?

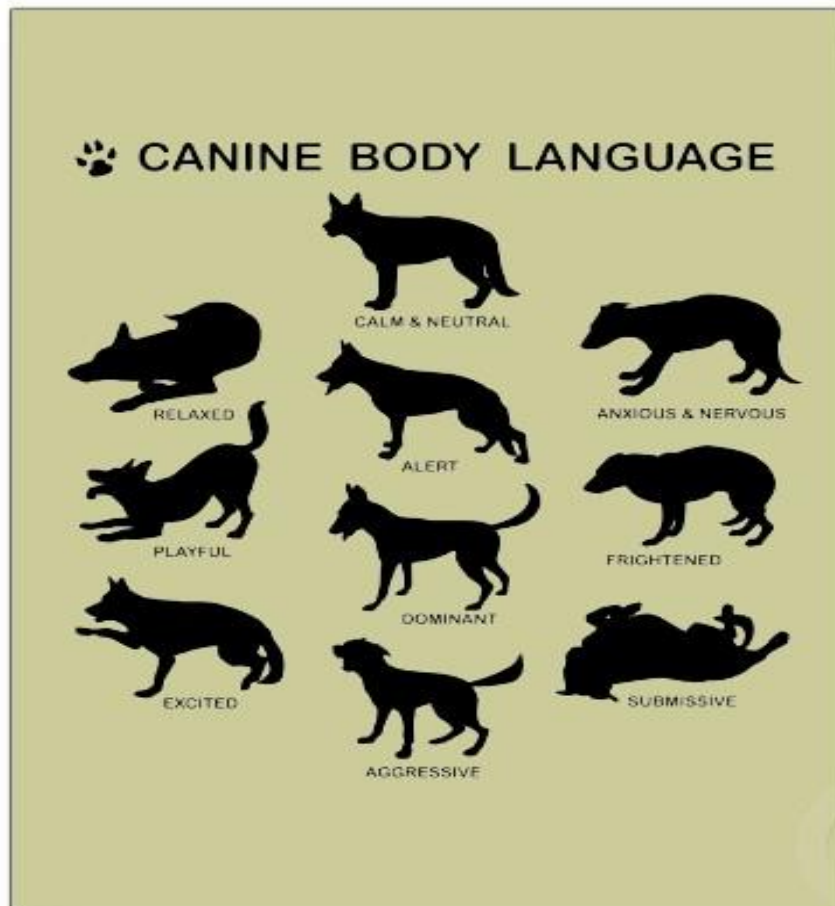


So What Have We Learned...?



- **REMEMBER** - Always **WAIT** - **THINK** - **And ASK** the owner AND the dog's permission first before approaching any dog you don't know
- **DANGER** - Never Hug, squeeze or try to pick him up
- **STAY AWAY** - From a dog who is sleeping, eating or playing with his bone
- **NEVER EVER** - Leave a small child or baby alone with any dog
- **ALWAYS** - Pick up your dog's toilet mess during walks, Use a bag and put it in a bin
- **TO KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE FROM ROADS** - Always remember to keep gates CLOSED
- **NEVER** - Run or scream loudly where there are dogs around
- **BAD OWNERS** - People who are cruel to their dogs or neglect them
- **GOOD OWNERS** - People who look after their dogs well and who are responsible and caring
- **REMEMBER** - Dogs have feelings too, just like us
- **DANGER** - Never approach a dog with her puppies or any dog tied up outside a shop
- **BE RESPONSIBLE TOWARDS OTHER ANIMALS** - If your dog growls or snarls at another dog keep him away. And when out on walks you must always keep your dog on the lead
- **REMEMBER** - If a stray dog approaches you stand still like a tree, do not speak or look at the dog, and count slowly in your head until he goes away
- **ALWAYS** - Be kind to an animal. If you see anyone deliberately hurting an animal or causing them pain please tell a responsible adult, **you could save their life**

Discussion: How is a dog feeling? Can you tell?...



I do not own this diagram