



# What *Doggy*'s *DO!*



[www.keepyourchildsafe.org](http://www.keepyourchildsafe.org)

Copyright 2005, Global Children's Fund



**GCF**  
Safety  
Books



Who likes dogs?  
Raise your hand.



There are all sorts of dogs. Black dogs, white dogs, brown dogs, poka-dot dogs. Big dogs, little dogs. Dog's at party's. Dogs with hats. Dogs with silly party hats. Hot dog dogs.

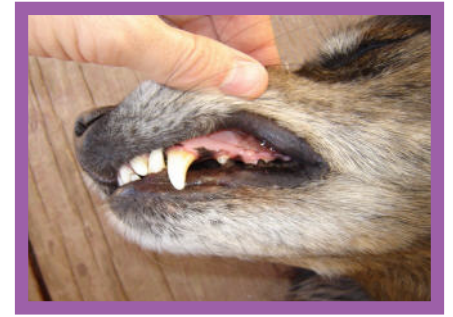




Green Dogs with  
pink pokodots  
that breathe  
**FIRE.**

And poop out  
purple ice cream.

Ok, not really  
those kind of dogs.  
But lots of  
dogs still.



Now I'm sure you probably can't imagine your favorite pet trying to bite you, but it happens. Just like people, dogs can sometimes get mad. But when dogs get mad, they don't know how to use their words like people do. So they sometimes bite instead. Most kids get hurt by dogs who are their friends, because dogs can get scared or angry when kids do things they might not understand. Kids shouldn't be scared of dogs, but they do need to learn how to be safe around them.

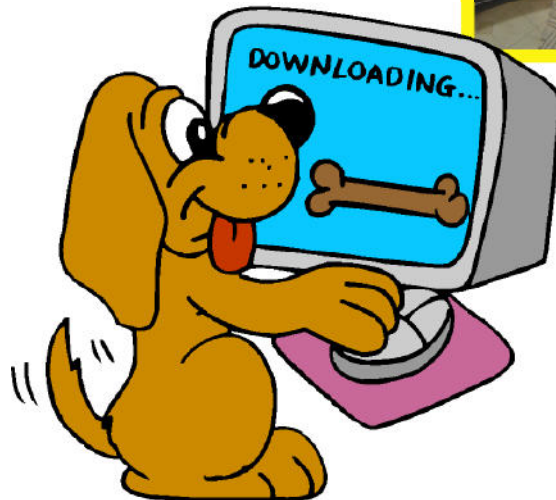
Most dogs are cute, cuddly, nice, and friendly to kids. Most dogs make wonderful pets, and can be wonderful best friends. Many dogs are even trained to help people do things better. But dogs also have sharp teeth. They have sharp claws. And they aren't people. They are animals, and like any animal, they can be unpredictable. Like any animal, they can be dangerous. Every year, there are four million dog attacks on people. Most of these are against children.

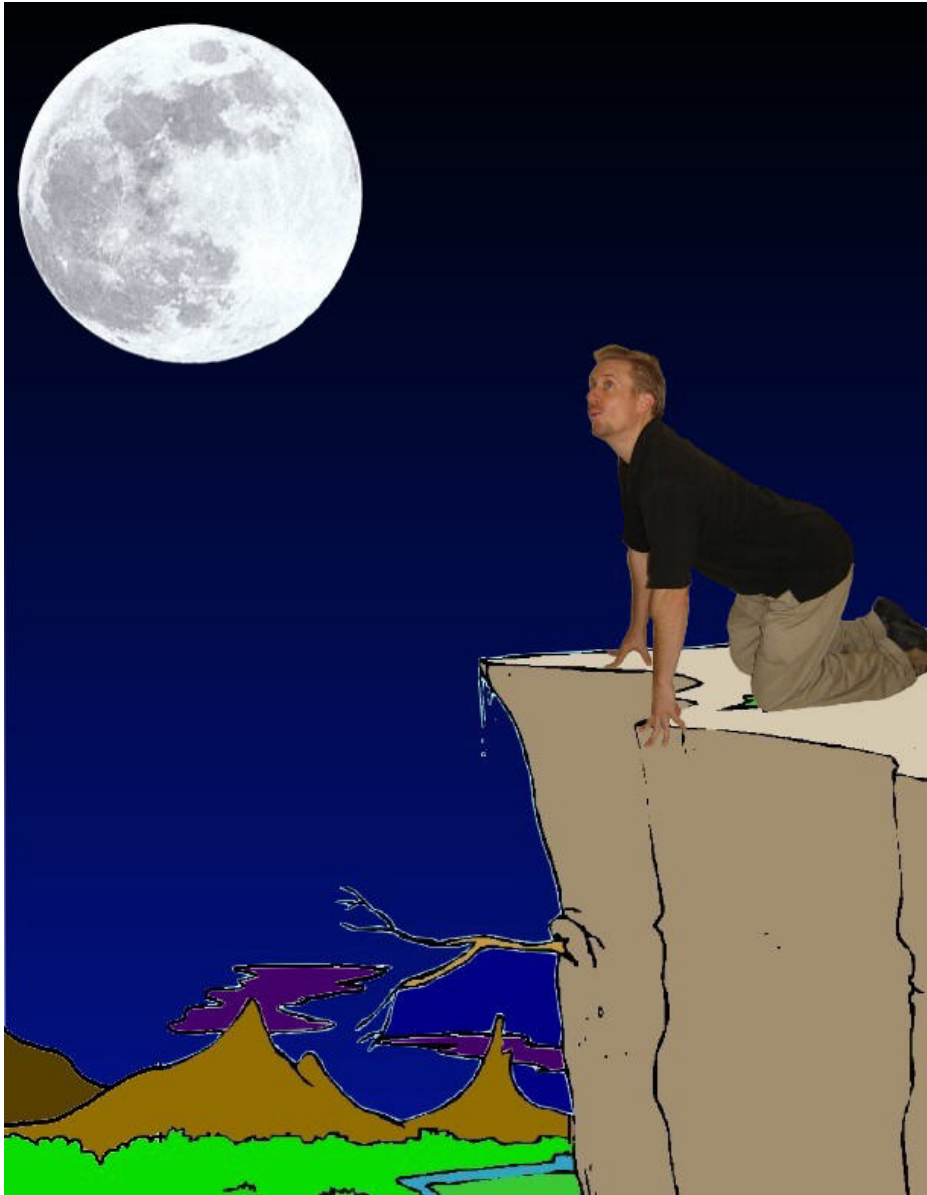




People generally don't eat doggy biscuits.  
They don't drink from doggie bowls. They  
don't go to parks on a leash.

Let's start out by learning  
about dog behaviour. You  
might think dogs and people  
act a lot different. And you'd  
be right.





People don't chase after cats, and you might want to run and hide if you ever see your mom or dad howling at the moon.



People don't chase after their tail. People actually smell better when they are wet. They don't shake themselves dry like dogs do. People don't pee on fire hydrants, and you certainly wouldn't find people sniffing each others butts to say "hello."





Despite these differences, there are still ways to tell how a dog is feeling. If a dog is wagging his tail at you, sticking his tongue out, drooling and going hahuh, hahuh, hahuh, hahuh, what does that mean? You probably guessed it, that's a happy dog. This dog is Ok to pet *if an adult is around*.

What about a dog that is barking or growling? Yep, this is an angry dog. We stay away from angry dogs. If a dog is ever barking at you or growling at you, we stay away and never try to pet it. We also don't go near dogs that are fighting. If two dogs are fighting, we stay away and get an adult to help us.



If a dog has his head down low, or his ears pulled back, this dog is what we call an upset dog. He might be scared, or she might be sad. Or it could be sick or hurt. Either way, we stay away from this kind of dog.

When a dog is hurt or scared, we might feel upset and want to help it. But that's not a good idea. Dogs that are scared or sick can bite, and we should get an adult to help if we really want to help the dog.

So let's review.  
What does this sign mean?  
That's right. This is the sign of a happy dog. This dog is Ok to pet if there is an adult around and the dog's owner is there.



What does this sign mean? These are angry dogs. We don't go anywhere near angry dogs.

What does this sign mean?

This sign means to watch your step.





Now that you know all about doggie moods, let's learn some play nice rules for playing with dogs. The first play nice rule for dogs is, ALWAYS LET A DOG SEE AND SNIFF YOU BEFORE YOU PET IT. Even if it is your own dog. This lets the dog know that you are friendly. If you just walk up without warning and start touching, the dog might think you are trying to hurt them.



The second play nice rule is, never try to play with a dog or pet a dog if they are eating, sleeping, or taking care of puppies. Dogs have needs, and if you try to interrupt those needs, they might get upset. Because dogs are animals, they are driven by instinct, and we don't want to interrupt that instinct.

The third play nice rule is, we never grab a dog around the neck. Hugs are great, but hugs are for people. Dogs don't always understand. When you hug them around the neck, some dogs might think you are trying to choke them. So never put your arms around a dogs neck or squeeze them like that.



The fourth play nice rule is, Never play games with food. Dogs LOVE food. Food is even more fun to dogs than chasing things. When it comes to food, dogs don't mess around. If you try to play games with food, they might get angry and bite you.

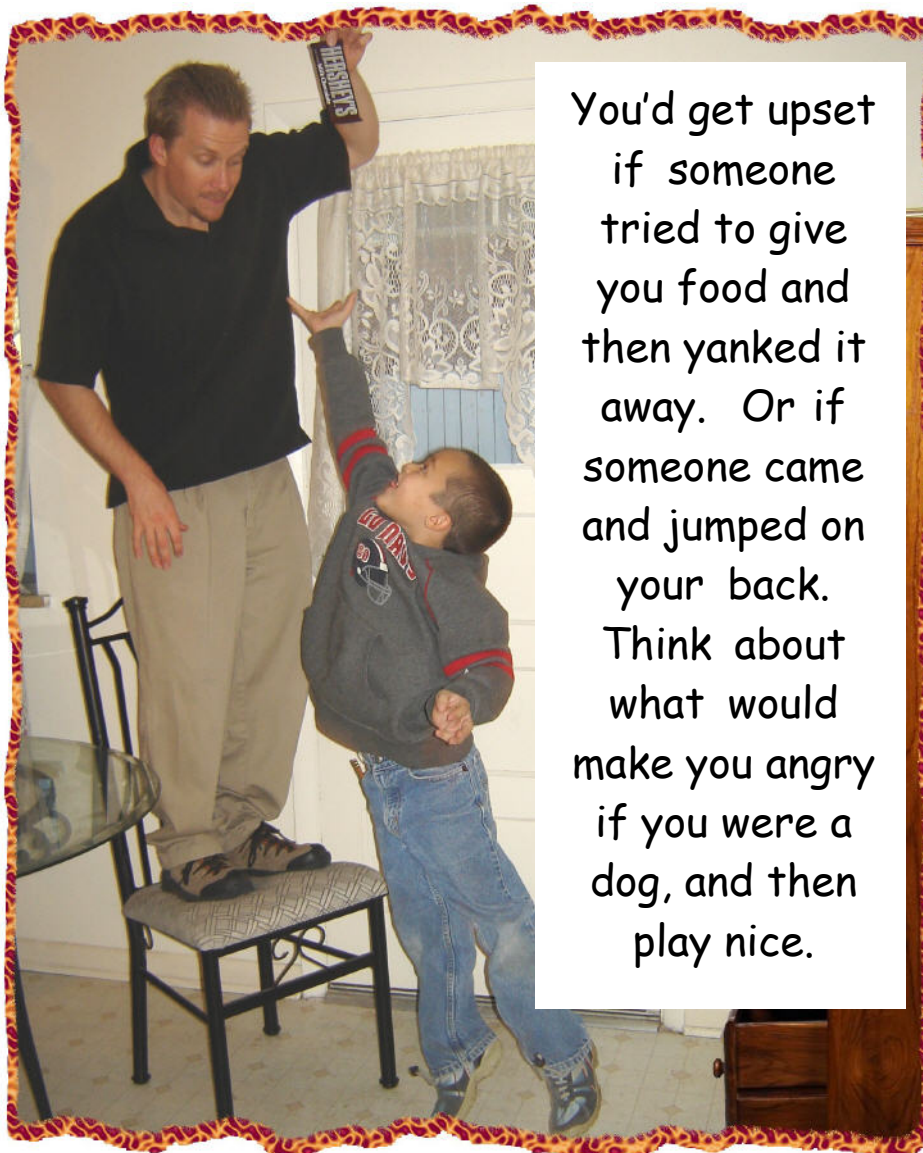


The fifth play nice rule, and one of the most important, is we only play with dogs if there is an adult around. Whether we are inside, outside, in our yard or on the moon, we always make sure there is an adult close by to help us in case something happens.



The sixth play nice rule is, we never invade a dogs space. Never cut through yards where a dog might be, even if you can't see them. Never cross a fence to play or pet a dog. Dogs are very territorial, and if they think that you're not supposed to be there, they might try to get you.

And our last play nice rule: treat dogs how you would want to be treated. If you think of all the rules we've talked about, they just have to do with treating dogs nice.



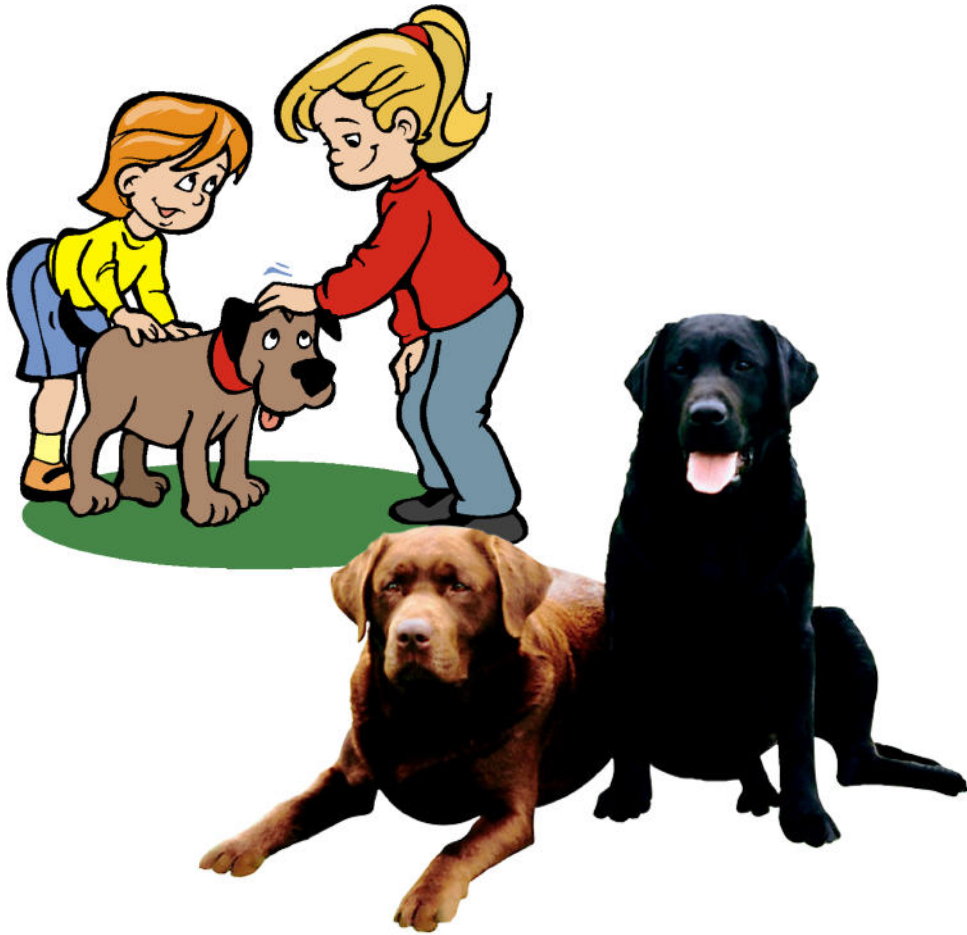
## So lets Review:

### Play Nice Rules:

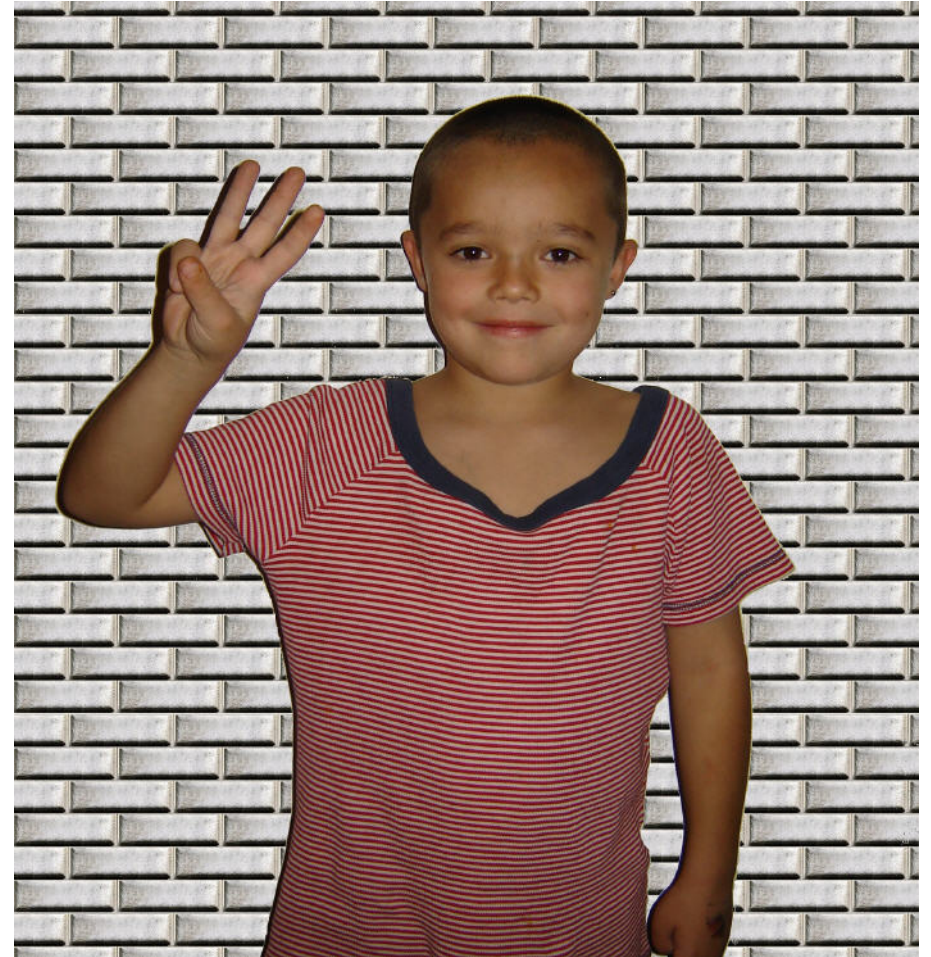
1. Always let dogs sniff you before you pet them.
2. Never Disturb a dog that is eating, sleeping, or caring for puppies.
3. Don't grab dogs around the neck.
4. Never play games with food.
5. Only play with dogs with an adult around.
6. Never invade a dogs space.
7. Treat dogs how we would want to be treated.

These rules should keep you safe around dogs, so make sure you follow them. Getting bit by your pet really isn't much fun.





When it comes to stranger dogs, many people tell you to NEVER pet strange dogs. But that is a really hard rule to follow. When you see a cute dog, you want to pet it. That's just the way it is. So we came up with a rule that's a little bit different. But you have to promise us you'll listen, and always follow these rules no matter what.



So hold up your right hand and give me your bestest scouts honor promise that you won't ever, ever, ever, break these rules for petting strange dogs. Can you do that?

# Repeat after me:

**I will** always ask their owners first if it is OK that I pet their dog.

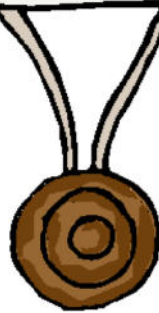
**I will** never try to pet a strange dog if their owners aren't with them.

**I will** only pet strange dogs if there is a grown-up around.

**I will** always let the dog sniff me before I try to pet it.



We have these rules because strange dogs are just like strangers when it comes to people. We don't know if they are nice or not. Only their owners know that, and only their owners know what makes them mad. So when it comes to strange dogs, we need to be just as careful as we would with people strangers.







But what do we do if we follow all these rules, but it still looks like a dog wants to get you? What if you are playing or walking in the park, and a dog comes up to you and starts growling? What do you do? You need to stand like a statue. You need to become a tree. Just don't move.

If you turn and run, the dog will chase you and get you. So just stand as straight as you can and don't look at the dog. This might fool the dog, and he might leave you alone. When he . starts to go away, slowly back away. Why don't we try that right now....



But what if a dog is already getting you? Is it too late? Do we just say that's it, I'm a goner. I might as well be a Doggie Turkey. Do we pretend we're a doggy biscuit and hold up our arms and say "Eat me!"



Of course not. It's scary to think about, but sometimes kids get attacked by dogs, and the dogs won't stop. This doesn't happen very often, but when it does, we need to know what to do so we don't get hurt badly.



First thing you do, is press your chin down to your chest. This protects your throat. Then, you just put your hands over your face and ears, and you curl up in a ball pressing your knees to your chest like a little baby. It will be hard. It might hurt. But this will keep the dog from biting your neck or face open. If you do your best to just stay still, the dog will usually stop. Why don't we try that a few times.





Yep, most dogs are nice. Most dogs are wonderful pets. But we need to learn these things so we can always be safe, no matter what happens. So just follow all these play nice rules, and you and dogs can be the best of friends. Eeeew! Doggy kisses, Yuck!

**THE END**



**Global Children's Fund**

[www.keepyourchildsafe.org](http://www.keepyourchildsafe.org)

