



**Learn these important
rules...share them
with your family and
friends!**

**Dogs can be fun to play
with, but a dog is not a
toy. Always be calm and
gentle with every dog,
and never poke any dog,
and never step on or pull
any dog's hair, ears or
tail.**

***Questions or comments about
this information may be
directed to:***

Warren Animal Welfare Commission

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SAFETY AROUND DOGS

- How to greet a familiar dog.
- What to do if you meet a stray dog.



Learn how to greet a dog that is on a leash with their owner, or is inside a friend's house:

1. Ask permission to pet the dog.
2. Offer the back of your hand for the dog to sniff and, if he does not growl or back away from you, then:
3. Gently scratch under his chin or rub his chest. Do not pat the dog on top of his head until he learns you are his friend. Most dogs trust an underneath hand much more than one coming from above their eye level.
4. Thank the owner.

Also, respect any dog's space. If they are eating, sleeping, or playing with their toys, do not interfere with that behavior without warning.

Finally, never stick your hand inside a dog's pen, fenced yard, or vehicle. They will naturally protect their "territory" and you may get a nasty nip!

Learn what to do if you encounter a stray dog, one that is not on a leash with an owner present:

Do not run away screaming if you see a loose dog; try to stand still and ignore him.

If the dog approaches you, first **MAKE LIKE A TREE**...cross your arms in front of your chest and look down at the ground. Dogs will usually think you are boring, and leave.

If the dog does run and jump at you, then **DROP LIKE A ROCK**...put your knees and forehead on the ground, put your hands across the back of your neck to cover your face and ears. The dog may sniff around you but be brave and do not move.

Once the dog leaves, slowly walk away. If he comes back, you may have to use your safety procedures once more.

When you reach home, tell an adult about the stray dog and where you saw it.

If you ever see a large group or "pack" of dogs and they begin walking toward you – toss a personal object (your book bag or hat) in the opposite direction, then walk the other way as they investigate.

Supervise Play With Children

Children and dogs can be great companions, but they also require supervision when playing together.

Your dog may be "good with kids," but what if he encounters a kid that is not good with dogs?

Children should never be left alone with a dog, no matter how stable his temperament.

**Always act safely
around dogs!**