

Your safety with dogs



Dogs do not communicate in the same way as people - they cannot talk to us by use of speech - this often leads to misunderstandings and confusion in our relationship with dogs. Dogs use their bodies, their faces and the noises they make to communicate and we need to try and learn how to understand these signals and be safe around dogs.

How to approach a dog safely

It is important to approach a dog in a way that makes it feel comfortable and not threatened in any way. This can be achieved by the following simple points.

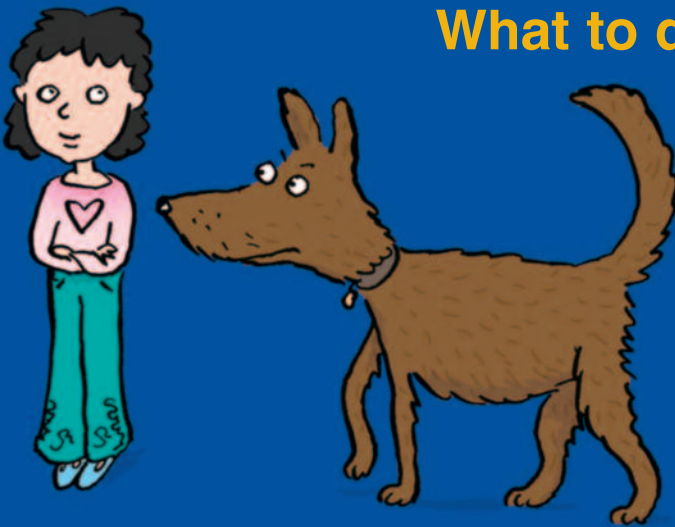
- Always ask the owner before stroking any dog
- Approach the dog calmly - no screaming or pushing
- Do not stare at the dog as you approach
- Keep your other hand by your side
- Offer the dog your hand to sniff then you can stroke the dog under the chin



What to do if frightened by a dog

Some dogs are more curious than others and don't mean you any harm but if a dog frightens you, there are things that you can do to ensure you are safe!

- Tuck your chin in
- Drop everything you are holding
- Fold your arms across your chest
- Don't move
- Don't scream
- Don't run away
- Don't move your arms
- Don't stare
- Be boring!



What to do if knocked down by a dog

Some dogs are very calm, while some are very playful and jump a lot, especially when excited. Even if it's an accident, being knocked over by a dog is scary, so let's consider how best to deal with such a situation.

- Tuck your arms and legs in
- Drop anything that you are holding
- Don't move
- Don't scream
- Don't stare
- Wait until the dog goes away before you get up

