

Puppy guidance for children

You, your puppy and your family are now part of our Guide Dogs family – as with all families it is important to understand and respect what others need. Please explain and discuss the below points with your children so they understand what your puppy and any dog they meet needs from them and why.

By actively allowing and encouraging your children to be part of the conversation and raising your puppy they will be likely to want to follow the rules and help your puppy develop. You could even print these points off, making them visible for children to refer to. When visitors come to the house, you could ask your children to explain the rules to them – making them feel part of your puppy's training and embedding best practice within the whole family.

1. Not all dogs like to be stroked. Always ask a dog's owner if you can stroke their dog.
2. Let a dog come to you rather than approaching them. Chasing them can make them worried, frightened or even aggressive.
3. You can smile at a dog but don't stare. This can scare them.
4. When touching or stroking a puppy always be gentle and move your hands slowly away from the puppy's head.
5. Keep your face away from a dog's face. Dogs can give you germs.
6. If a dog licks you, tell a grown up so that you can wash the place they licked; this will remove any harmful bacteria the puppy may have passed on to you.
7. Never make any sudden moves or loud noises when you are near a puppy. Puppies can be easily frightened and you may get hurt.
8. If a puppy growls or snarls at you, quietly move away from the puppy and tell a grown up what has happened.
9. If a dog is chasing or following you. Stop, stand as still as a tree, fold your arms and turn away from the puppy slowly.
10. Never get into a puppy's bed, especially when the puppy is in it! A crate, dog bed or pen is a dog's place to relax and have time out. Disturbing a puppy when it wants peace and quiet can be annoying.
11. If a puppy or dog is asleep, leave them alone. You might scare them and make them shout.
12. Keep your food well away from a puppy and don't give a puppy treats or titbits without a grown up's permission.
13. Always wash your hands after stroking a puppy.
14. When a dog is eating, leave them alone. You can play with them when they have finished and come to see you.
15. Keep your toys and treats for you and leave your puppy to have their toys and treats. If you want to touch their things, ask a grown up if this is ok. If you just take a dog's thing they may get cross and bite.