



## **Safety with Kids & Dogs**

No matter how experienced a child is with dogs or how well socialized a dog is - children should never be left alone with a dog. What most people do not understand about dogs is that when a child is crying, screaming, running around or tormenting a dog the child can very easily and quickly become prey to a dog.

Here are the basic guidelines all parents should follow with their child or their child's companion. In other words, all kids need to know the following:

- Do not approach strange dogs, even if they are cute and little as it is often the little dogs that receive the least amount of socialization
- Always ask the person handling the dog – “Is it ok if I pet your dog?”
- If approached by a strange dog, stand still, remain calm, put your hands in your pockets/armpits and do not stare at the dog
- If chased by a dog, do not scream or run, but stop, curl up in a ball and cover face and ears
- Do not stare at a dog, put your face in a dog's face, kiss a dog or put your hands on his head or cover up his eyes
- Do not bug dogs when they are eating (including a bone), sleeping or taking care of their puppies
- Do not hug dogs, climb or ride them, pull ears or in general tease dogs
- If a dog is playing with a toy or holding a toy and you want to play with the dog – do not unless the handler of the dog says it is ok

**ALWAYS ASK PERMISSION BEFORE PETTING OR TOUCHING A STRANGE DOG!**