



Things to remember to keep me **SAFE AROUND DOGS**

1. **Always ask** the owner before touching **ANY** dog, it might not be friendly.
2. **Keep still or move very slowly** around loose dogs, **NEVER** run away from them, they might feel the need to chase you – they **WILL** catch you!
3. **Don't go near a dog when it is eating.** **NEVER** take food away from a dog.
4. **Keep your hands still** and make no sudden movements around dogs. They might be in the mood for a game and they might knock you over or use their teeth to play.
5. **Do not stare** at a dog or put your face near them, they may feel threatened and feel the need to defend themselves even though you mean to be friendly and mean no harm.
6. **Leave dogs alone** if they are tied up, with their puppies, unwell or asleep, they may feel grumpy, frustrated and you might surprise them, it's unfair to disturb them.
7. **Avoid going into someone else's garden** or near a car window if there is a dog in there, he might feel he needs to guard his space.
8. **Stroke your dog gently** and always be kind, quiet and calm when you are with him. He is your friend and you will want him to feel loved and happy. Avoid patting or touching the top of the head.
9. **Dogs don't like being hugged**, but he will really enjoy gentle strokes on the side of his body and chest and being spoken to softly.
10. **Ask before you play** games with your dog and make sure there is an adult with you whilst you play, as they can be your referee. Teasing is unfair to the dog and could make him angry.
11. **Avoid eating near your dog**, he might think you want to share and help himself to your food!
12. **Always wash your hands** after touching dogs.

When you remember these things, you will help dogs that you meet to feel happy, safe and relaxed. They will **trust you!** Happy dogs that feel safe and relaxed will not have to bite to protect themselves.

Remember to **tell your friends** what you know so that they can enjoy your dog too. If you remember these things your dog and your friends will always stay safe and happy when you are together. Your dog will thank you for this and enjoy your friends too!