



Be Kind Belize Dog Safety Fact Sheet

This is a dog safety fact sheet, which educators, parents, guardians and family members should all read with young people whether they have a dog or not. Education has been shown to be the most important way to keep children safe around dogs.

Dogs are wonderful companions and family guards but if they are not managed and trained well, they can become a danger to children, particularly if the children have not been taught how to behave safely in their presence.



Did you know that...

- Children are more likely to be bitten by dogs than adults?
- Boys are more likely to be bitten by dogs than girls?
- Children are more likely to be bitten by a dog that they know – their own dog, a friend's dog, a neighbour's dog or a family member's dog – than by a stray or strange dog in the street?
 - Children who are bitten by dogs are most likely to be bitten on or near the face?
- Un neutered male dogs are the most likely to bite children?
- Dogs are most likely to bite because they are frightened?
- Any breed of dog is capable of biting a child?

- Dogs that are kept on chains or abused are more likely to be a danger to children?
- Dogs that are encouraged to be aggressive towards people or other animals are more likely to be a danger to children?
- Dogs that have been teased by children are more likely to bite them?
- Dogs that have not been trained or socialised are more likely to bite children?



Children are safer with dogs if....

- The dogs that they interact with are healthy, treated well and not abused.
 - They do not learn to chase, hit or tease dogs.
 - They are taught to approach dogs respectfully.
 - They learn how to recognise when a dog is scared or angry.
 - They are taught never to bother dogs that are eating or sleeping.
- They are taught never to run and scream if being chased by a dog.
- They are supervised by an adult when interacting with dogs.
- They are not allowed to play roughly with dogs.
- The dogs that they interact with have been socialised and trained.
- They have been involved with socialising and training their own dog from a young age.
- They are confident and calm around dogs.

This fact sheet may be used with the Be Kind Belize *Understanding Dog Body Language* fact sheet and the Dog Safety Worksheet for classrooms.