

doggone safe

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Teresa's Bad Rules



These are rules that kids in Teresa's dog obedience classes call the "bad rules" because they don't like some of them.

Following these dos and don'ts will help keep promote child safety around dogs and prevent dog bites.

1. **Do not** hug a dog, put your face close to his face or lie on him. **Do** sit beside your dog, rub his chest or scratch him on the side of the neck.
2. **Do not** play chase-me games with a dog. **Do** play hide and seek - where the dog has to find you or an object that you hide.
3. **Do not** play tug-of-war games with a dog. **Do** play fetch with the dog - teach the dog to trade the object for a treat so he won't try to tug.
4. **Do not** lean over or step over a dog. **Do** respect a dog's resting place - go around him or ask an adult to move the dog.
5. **Do not** bother a dog who is sleeping, eating, has a toy or bone, is hurt or has puppies. **Do** wait for the dog to come to you for attention.
6. **Do not** dress a dog up in play clothes. **Do** dress up your stuffed animals.
7. **Do not** hit a dog or poke him with a stick. **Do** be gentle with dogs.
8. **Do not** pull a dog's ears, tail or fur. **Do** scratch the dog's chest or the side of her neck - most dogs enjoy this.
9. **Do not** stick fingers or hands into the dog's crate. **Do** ask an adult to let the dog out of the crate if you want to pet her.
10. **Do not** play in the dog's crate. **Do** play "in and out of the crate" with the dog - toss a treat in - dog goes in to get it - dog comes back out - toss another treat in etc (with adult supervision).
11. If your dog does not welcome you with wagging and panting - leave him alone. **Do** wait for the dog to come to you for attention.
12. If your dog gets too rough or excited, [be a tree](#) (stand still with your hands folded in front and look at your feet) until he gets bored and goes away.
13. **Do not** run and shout around a dog that is not in a crate. **Do** be calm around dogs; involve the dog in an activity such as chewing on a bone or playing fetch so he doesn't feel that he needs to chase you to have fun.