**Pets and Kids**

* **Never run from a dog** even especially if it’s coming towards you! Turn your back or roll up into a ball and hide your face!
* Talk to your pets in a **normal voice**, not an excited one! Never yell at your pet!
* If it is someone else’s pet **ALWAYS ask if you may pet the animal first**!
* **Walk up to pets slowly**. Let them greet you by smelling the back of your hand!
* Pet animals **slow and** **gently**, with the flow of its fur.
* **Be kind!** No hitting, kicking, pulling, jumping or stepping on pets. That is called bullying! Do not “ride” a dog. Do not play dress up with your pet.
* Ask permission to play games like fetch and tug-of-war.
* Pets get tired; if they are sleeping leave them alone!
* If the pet is in a crate, leave him alone. Do not put anything into the crate (toys, food) and don’t sit on the crate either! Pretend there is a sign that reads “Quite Zone.”
* If the dog is doing something wrong, tell them "no" in a low, voice.
* If the dog does something right, tell them “good dog” in a happy voice!
* If you have permission to give commands to the dog, only use one word command. Say "sit," not "sit down." Adding more words confuses your dog!
* **No sharing table foods or snacks** with your pets. Some people food is bad for them!
* Be patient, kind and loving!
* **If you see a hurt animal, help it by getting an adult!**

 **Parents**
* Children should not be left alone or allowed to sleep with an animal.
* Ensure that you and your child always wash hands with soap and water after handling pets.
* Teach your child not to pull on the ears and tail of animals, or pinch, squeeze, or make loud noises. They should never disturb a dog while it is resting, sleeping, eating, or playing with a favorite toy.
* Teach your child to never approach strange dogs or animals. He should never reach through a fence to pet a dog. And they should always ask permission to pet an animal that is with someone.
* Don't allow your pets to lick your child's face or any cuts or scratches.
* Gradually increase your child's responsibility for pet care, but remember you remain the number-one caregiver.
* Mistreating an animal — tugging a tail or playing too rough — usually stems from curiosity or exuberance. Be sure to safeguard your animal's welfare and help your child understand the animal's needs.
* Plan carefully for a new pet so you can commit to caring for it throughout its lifetime. Unfortunately, pets given to shelters are most likely to come from families with kids.

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