**Pets and Teens**

* **Learn to read your pets’ body language!** (Posturing)
* Learn to work with your pets natural inclinations.
* **If you’re not comfortable handling an animal get an adult who is!** (Pets know your vibes!)
* Make sure you speak with your parents when choosing a pet so that all family members can be on board and committed to the life of the animal, no matter how your life changes.
* In choosing a pet consider other family members and other household pets!
* Cost of owning a pet!
* **Basic Rules of training keep your pet safe, if you don’t spend time with them they may end up in the shelter.**
* Learn about the dangers of puppy mills; kill shelters and other pet emergencies.
* **Learn how to recognize abuse.**
* Know your own limitations and strengths.
* Never use your pet to “show off” to your peers. Taking good care of your pet is better will show them more than anything “silly” you can make your pet do.
* **You may need to learn about pet care in order to be a responsible owner.**
* You pet needs proper food, water, housing, exercise and love.
* **Negative emotions have no place in your pets’ life! Learn how to exhale them before dealing with your pets.**
* Be willing to know you can learn more, and that someone other than yourself may have a great tip on pet safety for you!

 **Parents**

* Having a pet will give teenagers a head start on the road to adulthood. It teaches teens to put others before ones self.
* Gives a teenage a road to responsibility.
* A loved animal can be loyal, non-judgmental and a good listener! (helps with depression)
* Animals pay no mind to test scores, lost games, pimples or broken dates! They love without question and their most important task is to simply be with its owner!
* Concerns; your teen may get tired of taking care of the pet.
* Concerns; how would your teen handle the death or injury of an animal?
* Concerns; what happens to the pet if the teen grows to adult hood and can’t take care of that pet? (Apartments, low income, etc.)

**www.doggieandme.com**