



Keeping Kids and Dogs Safe





INTRODUCTION

This eBook was written to help families with dogs make informed decisions, and take action to keep their children and dogs safe together. UK dog ownership has increased dramatically to over 3.2 million homes now enjoying a canine companion. Dogs of any breed, size and age have the potential to do harm. Children are particularly vulnerable, as they are significantly more likely to be bitten in the face due to their size. Approximately 77% of bites to children occur from the family dog or a known dog. This eBook has one purpose - to reduce the growing number of children injured or killed by dogs.

Kate Bond

INTRODUCING A NEW BABY

Proactive, not reactive. How to prepare your dog for your new baby before they arrive

TIPS FOR TODDLERS

Keeping everyone safe and staying sane as you navigate toddlerhood

TRICKS FOR KIDS

Some techniques to teach your child to keep them interacting appropriately with dogs

LEARN TO SPEAK DOG

Dogs do speak but only to those who know how to listen. Essential learning for any home with a dog





Before Baby Arrives

Baby dolls can be a fantastic way to prepare your dog for your new arrival. If your dog is particularly jumpy, it is important they understand the alternative behaviour you would like instead of jumping when baby is in your arms. Working with a qualified trainer prior to baby arriving can help with this. Treat the doll as you would a human baby and allow your dog the time to adjust to the new arrival. This gives you time to apply any necessary training before the big day.

Loose lead walking is a life skill not every dog has learned. If your dog pulls on the lead, walking them with a pushchair will be a real challenge and might lead to the dog not being walked as frequently as they need. Work with a qualified trainer to build the skill of loose lead walking before baby's arrival, or connect with a reputable and experienced dog walker ahead of time.

Preparation is everything. Add as much baby paraphernalia as you can to the home ahead of time, so changes don't all come at once for your dog. Nappies, creams, bouncers, Moses baskets bottles, toys are all brand new to your dog and will take time for them to process and adjust to. Adding them to the home at least a month before baby will give your dog the time they need to adjust to the changes.

BRINGING HOME BABY

Control and management is dog trainer speak for careful arrangement of the environment to prevent what you don't want, and increasing the likelihood of the behaviour you do want.

We can use baby gates and play pens to ensure that all important separation is available when we are unable to actively supervise both baby and the dog.

Supervision or separation is essential for keeping everyone safe.

It can make more sense to use a play pen around baby's safe spaces such as their bouncy chair, tummy time mat or changing area rather than crating your dog. At this stage, baby is not particularly mobile but your dog very much will be.



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WHAT IS SUPERVISION?



THE 5 TYPES OF SUPERVISION

1



ABSENT

Adult not in room with dog and baby/toddler



2



PASSIVE

Adult in same location but distracted and not watching



3



REACTIVE

Responding after dog or child is too close



4



PROACTIVE

Planning and preparing safe separation.



5



ACTIVE

Full awake adult supervision

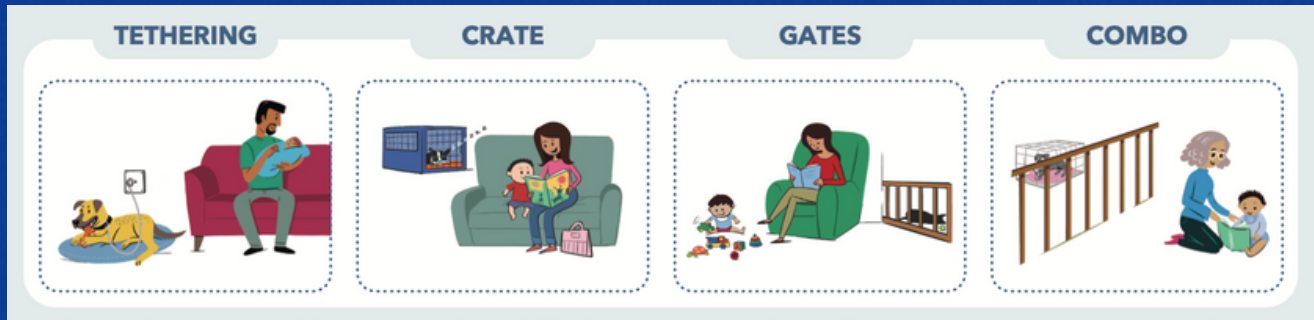


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IMAGE SOURCE: WWW.FAMILYPAWS.COM/RESOURCES/

WHAT IS SEPARATION?



Tethering should only be used before baby is mobile. Once baby is active, tethers remove your dog's ability to move away if they so choose. They can be a great option for the early days and help new parents feel safe when there's no physical barrier

Crates can be appropriate occasional options for some dogs if they have been slowly and positively introduced before baby arrives. We must consider the emotional state of the dog at all times. Only use a crate if they have been appropriately introduced and your dog is comfortable with it

Gates are our favourite tool for managing a busy household. There are many varieties of gates available for every home. Be mindful of the size of your dog and if the mechanism is secure enough. Dogs have been known to nose or paw open some gates or jump straight over.

As babies become mobile, a combination of options may be necessary to ensure safe separation. For example, a baby gate can help prevent your curious, mobile baby from approaching your dog resting in their crate.

IMAGE SOURCE: WWW.FAMILYPAWS.COM/RESOURCES/

Tips For Toddlers

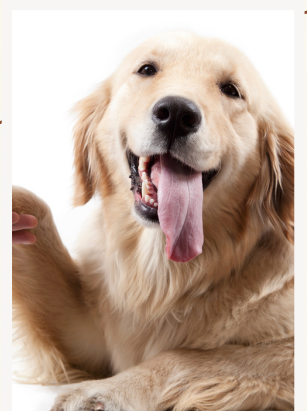
Toddlers won't instinctively understand how to touch a dog. Pulled ears, yanked fur and trodden tails can be prevented by teaching your child how to interact with your dog and actively supervising them.

Using a stuffed toy, demonstrate to your child how to touch a dog. Flat hands on the shoulder, encourage your child to stroke the stuffed dog with your hand over theirs to guide them. Gentle praise and encouragement should be offered to your child when they unfurl their fingers and offer the flat hand, gently stroking the stuffed dog's shoulder.

At this point, allow them to practice on your dog if your dog would enjoy this and it is safe to do so. Ensure interactions are actively supervised at all times.

Consider teaching your child to throw toys and teach the dog to drop them.

Supervised games of fetch are a fun way for kids and dogs to interact and co-exist, building a great relationship.



Teach Children to Be a Statue

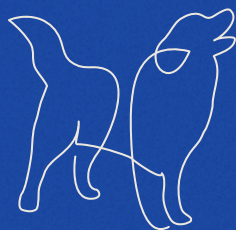


IMAGE SOURCE: KIDSAROUNDDOGS.CO.UK

Questions?

INFO@GOODASGOLDEN.CO.UK

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DOGGY LANGUAGE



Do you understand the silent conversations your dog is having constantly? So many times we hear a behaviour has 'come from nowhere' but this is rarely the case. Learning to speak dog is the most powerful way to keep everyone safe and feeling heard.

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

Canine body language

Dog behaviour is not random, all behaviour serves a function for the dog. Learning to better understand the subtleties of canine body language opens up a whole new world of understanding for us as guardians.

Your dog is talking to you all the time.

Being able to recognise and understand the signals your dog is giving you constantly will move you significantly forward in understanding their silent communication and advocating for them to maintain a safe happy home.

Often in the case of bites or growls, people will describe the behaviour as appearing 'out of nowhere'. It can certainly seem that way, until you learn the plethora of communication signals your dog was offering prior to the incident.

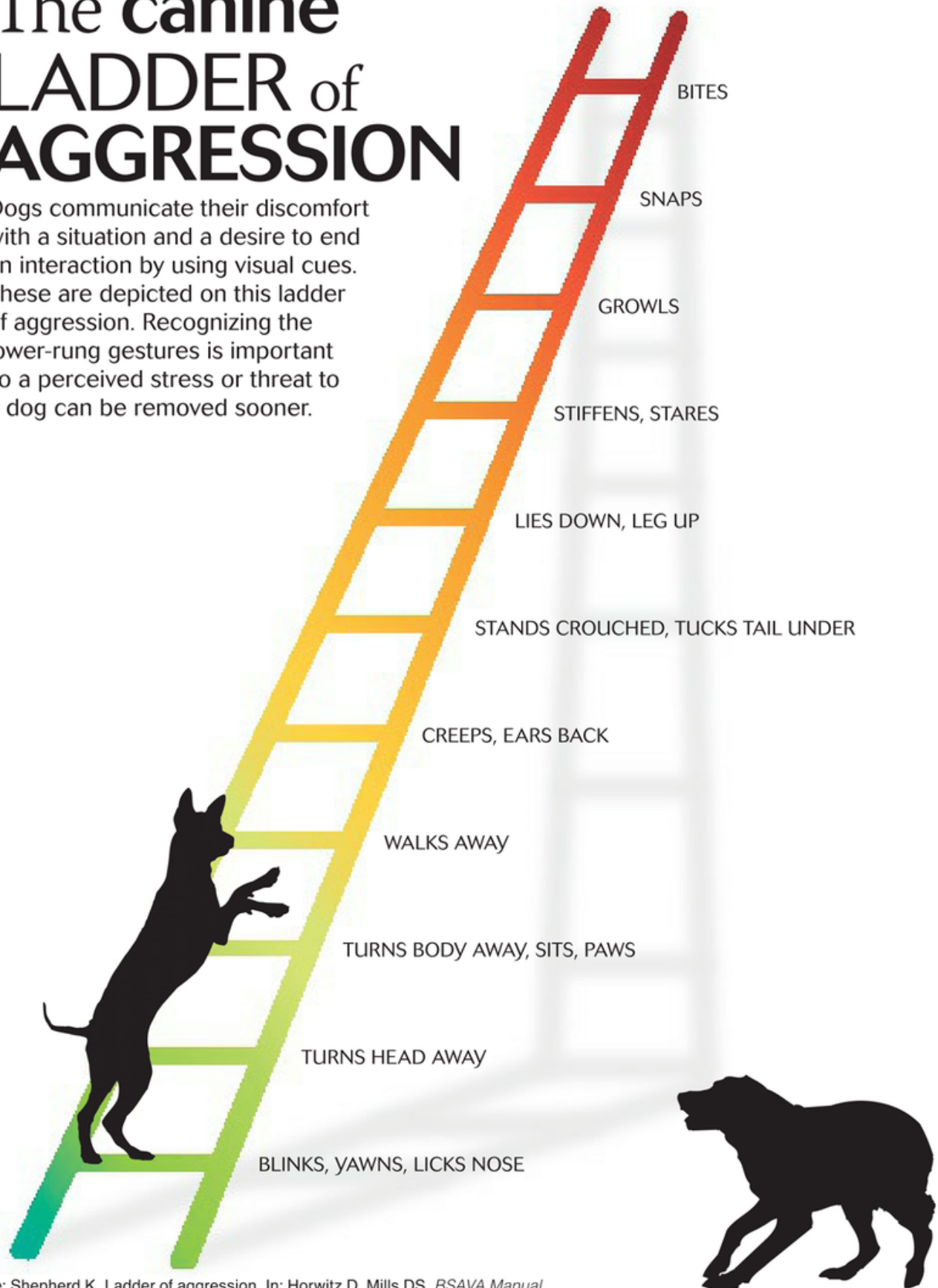
Pain influences behaviour. If your dog's behaviour has changed suddenly, ensure they are checked by their vet.

Dogs are social animals and will seek to avoid conflict. Aggression is a last resort.



The canine LADDER of AGGRESSION

Dogs communicate their discomfort with a situation and a desire to end an interaction by using visual cues. These are depicted on this ladder of aggression. Recognizing the lower-rung gestures is important so a perceived stress or threat to a dog can be removed sooner.



Source: Shepherd K. Ladder of aggression. In: Horwitz D, Mills DS. *BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine*, 2nd ed. 2009.

Body Language of Fear in Dogs



Slight Cowering



Major Cowering



More Subtle Signs of Fear & Anxiety



Licking Lips
when no food nearby



Panting
when not hot or thirsty



Brow Furrowed, Ears to Side



Moving in Slow Motion
walking slow on floor



Acting Sleepy or Yawning
when they shouldn't be tired



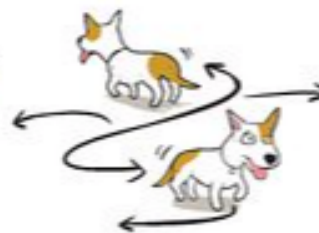
Hypervigilant
looking in many directions



Suddenly Won't Eat
but was hungry earlier



Moving Away



Pacing

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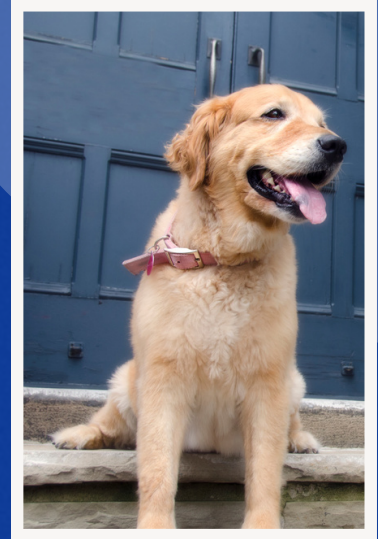
IMAGE SOURCE: [HTTPS://CATTLEDOGPUBLISHING.COM](https://cattledogpublishing.com)

STEP 1

Read your dog

If you notice some of the early signs your dog is feeling stressed such as lip licking, yawning, blinking and turning their head away, try to assess the environment and figure out what could be causing your dog to feel uncomfortable.

If we listen to their whispers, they will never need to shout.



STEP 2

Take Action

If you notice your dog is displaying stress signals as your child approaches while they have a tasty chew, encourage your dog to their safe space with their chew or remove your child from the situation. Taking action and listening to your dog's whispers means they will not need to escalate their behaviour or need to shout.

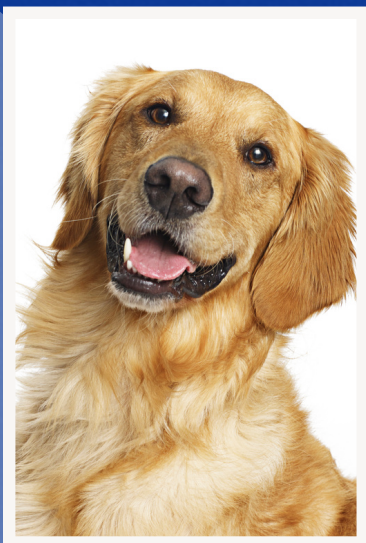
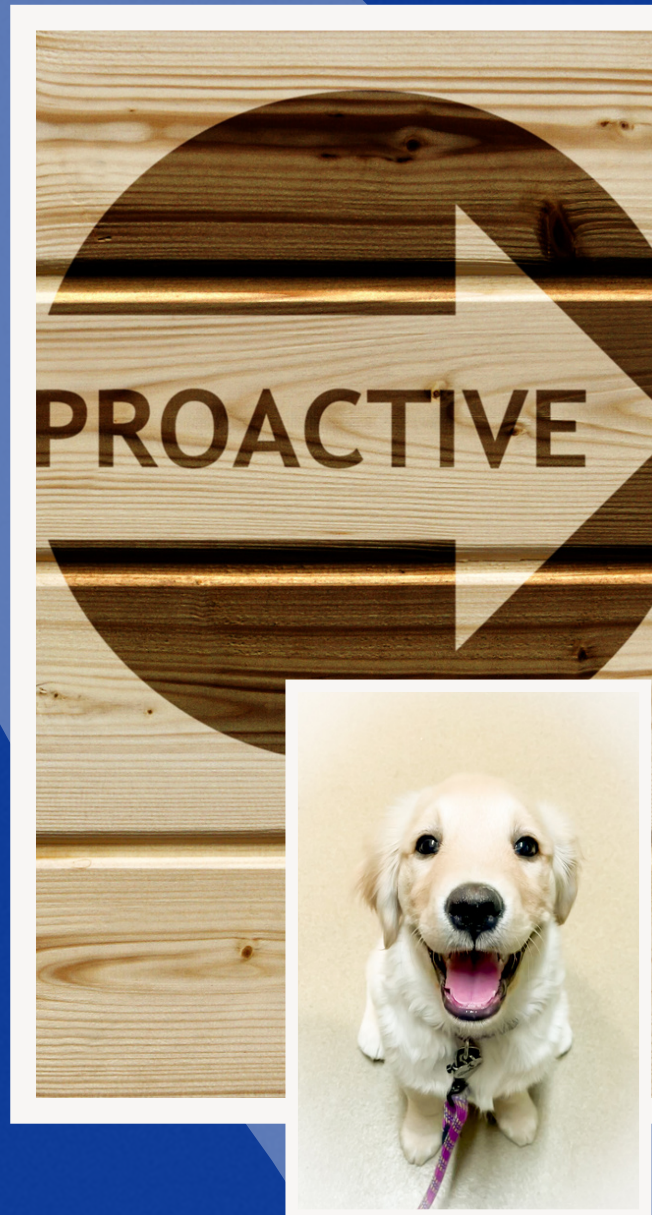


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STEP 3

Prevent recurrences

You may see stress signals as outlined above regularly in specific contexts, for example, head turning away, lip licking and yawning as your child approaches your dog when resting. If this happens, you may consider moving the bed to a quiet area and teaching your child what to do instead of approaching your dog when they're resting. If old enough, your child may wish to colour in 'keep out' signs to become your helper in keeping your dog's bed area quiet. You could ask your child to help you taping out a visual safe zone on the floor they must not pass. If your child is too young, gates and pens may be necessary.



STEP 4

Monitor progress

As the adults, we must advocate for all household members who are unable to do so for themselves. This means regular observations to ensure everyone is feeling heard and staying safe. If you're unsure why your dog is stressed, contact a qualified professional.



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<https://www.familypaws.com>

<https://www.thefamilydog.com/stop-the-77>

<https://www.doggielanguagebook.com>



Questions?

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