



City Of Henderson B.A.R.K. BOOK

Teachers: Before you begin the BARK Dog Bite Prevention Program, we encourage you to reproduce this letter and send it home with students.

Dear Parent:

Each year, more than 4 million people are bitten by dogs, and 800,000 dog-bite-related injuries are severe enough to require medical attention. It's estimated that more than half of those bitten are under the age of 13, and children are at least three times more likely than adults to sustain a serious injury.

To reduce dog bites in our community and keep our children safe, our class will be taking part in the BARK (Be Aware, Responsible, and Kind) Dog Bite Prevention Program, developed by the youth education division of The Humane Society of the United States. Through lesson plans, a video, worksheets, and coloring pages, students will learn how to stay safe around dogs and avoid dog bites. As your child brings home his or her completed work, we encourage you to take a look at it. After all, the tips can help keep you safe around dogs, too!

Perhaps the most important lesson of the BARK Dog Bite Prevention Program is the need for everyone to take responsibility for their pets. Just as important as teaching children how to stay safe around dogs is our responsibility as adults to make sure that we reduce the chance that our dogs will bite. Here are some important tips from The Humane Society of the United States.

- Don't tether or chain your dog outside for long periods of time. This can cause dogs to feel isolated and become aggressive. Dogs are motivated to protect their territory and may bite when someone comes within reach of their chain.
- Remind family members and others not to disturb dogs who are sick, sleeping, eating, nursing puppies, or guarding territory or property, such as a car, toy, or yard.
- Spay or neuter your dog. Dogs who have not been spayed or neutered are three times more likely to bite than dogs who have been spayed or neutered. Spay/neuter operations also help stop pet overpopulation and can provide significant health benefits for pets.
- Train and socialize your dog so that he or she is comfortable around people.
- Never allow your dog to roam.
- To report suspected cases of animal cruelty or neglect, contact your local animal control officer or animal shelter.

Thank you for your help in making our community safer for all—and a happier place for our canine friends!

For more information on proper dog care and how you can help prevent dog bites in your community, please visit www.nodogbites.org.

Lesson Plan: Friends for Life

Objective

To generate positive feelings about dogs by identifying ways that dogs enhance our lives and ways people can help them in return.

Skills

Students will be able to list in writing at least five ways in which dogs help people and at least five ways people can help dogs.

Materials

- paper
- pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Activity

Students write and illustrate ways dogs help people and ways people help dogs.

Procedure

1. Begin a class discussion about pets. Some questions to ask include: *Who has a dog? Who has a cat? Does anyone have any other kinds of pets? For those who don't have a pet, do you want one? What are your pets' names? What is your favorite thing about your pet?* Students may say that their pets are good friends, great listeners, and fun playmates. Explain that dogs have been our friends and helpers for at least 10,000 years.
2. Give each student a blank piece of paper. On one side, ask students to write down at least five ways in which dogs make our lives better. Answers may include: Dogs aid police and firefighters; rescue people in need; provide companionship; and act as assistance dogs for people who are blind, deaf, sick, or disabled. On the other side of their paper, students should list at least five ways people can help dogs. Answers may include: providing proper food, water, exercise, and veterinary care; having dogs spayed or neutered to prevent pet overpopulation; grooming dogs and keeping them clean; playing with dogs; giving dogs love and attention; training; and adopting dogs from shelters.
3. After students have completed their lists, call on them to share their ideas. Write select

responses on the chalkboard or dry-erase board under one of two columns: "How Dogs Help People" or "How People Can Help Dogs."

4. Have each student illustrate an item from the lists on the board. Use their drawings to make a bulletin board display divided into two sections, "How Dogs Help People" and "How People Can Help Dogs."

Extension

Invite a guest speaker from a guide dog school or assistance dog association to participate in a question-and-answer session in your classroom. Contact information is available at the following sites:

www.nfb.org/guidedog.htm

www.idaadp.org

www.adia.org

www.latham.org



Lesson Plan: Staying Safe Around Dogs

Objective

To increase students' knowledge about how to behave safely around dogs and prevent dog bites.

Skills

After viewing a dog bite prevention video, students will be able to answer quiz questions and role-play safe behavior around dogs in various situations.

Materials

- Copies of *Dogs, Cats & Kids Quiz*
- writing utensils
- stuffed dog
- food bowl
- dog treat
- smaller stuffed dogs, to fill in as puppies
- a rope bone
- *Dogs, Cats & Kids* video (Copies of *Dogs, Cats & Kids* may be ordered for \$19.95. Send orders to the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423-0362. For credit card orders, call 1-860-434-8666 or order online at www.nahee.org/ShoppingCart.) Note: If you are unable to purchase the video, the role-playing segment of this lesson plan is still an effective way of teaching children about dog bite prevention.

Activity

Students watch a video, take a quiz, and role-play safe behavior around dogs.

Procedure

1. Distribute copies of *Dogs, Cats & Kids Quiz* on page 5. Give students a few minutes to review the quiz questions before they watch the video. Once they have watched the video, have students complete the quiz. Have them self-correct their quizzes while you call out the answers. (Correct answers are: 1. false; 2. b; 3. tree, arms, ahead, knees, ears; 4. a; 5. c; 6. false; 7. c; 8. d.)
2. Hold the stuffed dog at the front of the classroom. Call on several students to demonstrate how to greet a dog safely. Make sure they first ask two things: "Is your dog friendly?" and "May I pet your dog?" Tell students to approach the dog from the side, hold out a hand, palm down, and let the dog sniff it. Have a few more students—or even the whole class, if you have time—come up to show what they have learned. (Repetition may

increase the chances that your students will remember how to properly approach dogs.)

3. Next, tell students that the dog will be doing a few different things and that they are to call out if petting the dog would be safe or unsafe in each case. Pretend that the dog is chewing a bone; grooming her puppies; eating or drinking from a bowl. As students call out *safe* or *unsafe*, explain that approaching a dog under any of those circumstances is *unsafe*. Dogs are territorial and guard their homes, food, and puppies. Ask students to identify other situations in which it might be unsafe to pet a dog. Answers may include: when dogs are fighting; when they are guarding territory (for example, when dogs are behind fences, in cars, or on chains); or when they are sick or injured. Tell students that if they think a dog needs help, they should get an adult.

4. Tell students that even though most dog bites can be prevented by avoiding dogs who are angry, afraid, or guarding territory or food, strange dogs may still approach them. The good news is that if we behave safely and don't panic, most dogs will just sniff us and walk away.

Explain that if a strange dog approaches, students should "be like a tree." That means standing still with arms at their sides, staring straight ahead, and remaining silent. Have a few students come to the front of the class to demonstrate how to "be like a tree" while you approach them with the stuffed dog. Remind students that dogs' natural instinct is to chase moving objects, so under no circumstances should they run away from a dog. Also, direct eye contact is a challenge to a dog, so they should never look a dog straight in the eyes.

Now explain that if a dog knocks them down, they should "lie like a log." That means curling their knees into their chest, covering their ears with their fists, and remaining quiet and still. Invite several students to the front of the class to demonstrate how to "lie like a log" while you "sniff" them with the stuffed dog.

Extension

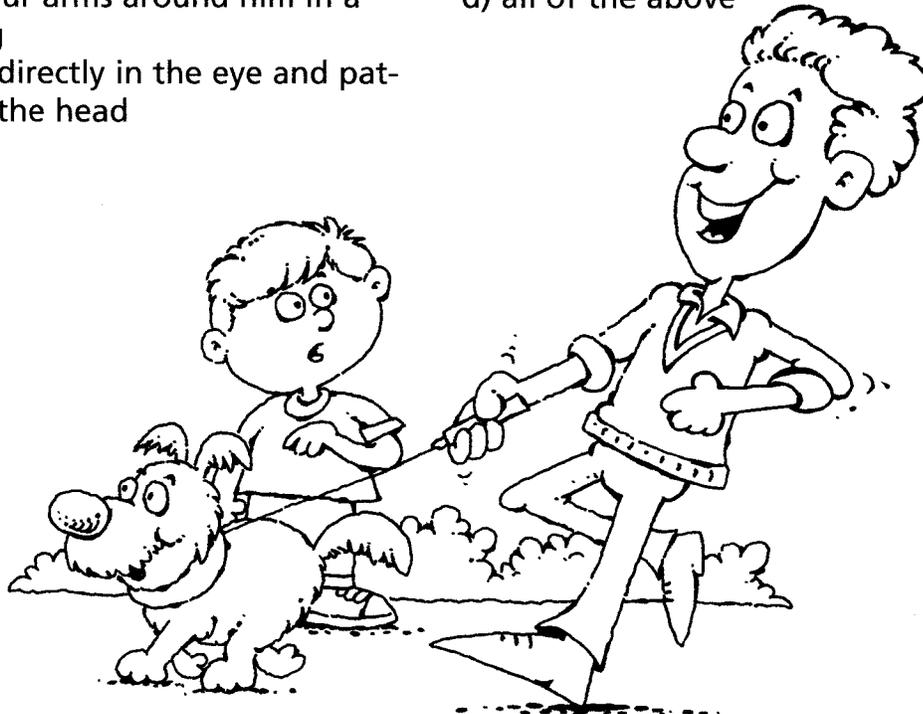
Have students practice what they have learned by showing a class of younger children how to "be like a tree" and "lie like a log" when a strange dog approaches.

Name _____

Dogs, Cats & Kids Quiz

Watch the video closely. How many questions can you answer correctly?

1. True or false: Tug of war is a safe game to play with dogs.
2. If you want to greet a dog, what two questions should you ask his owner?
 - a) "What kind of dog is that?" and "Would he like a bone?"
 - b) "Is your dog friendly?" and "May I pet him?"
 - c) "What's your dog's name?" and "How old is he?"
3. Use these words to fill in the blanks (**ahead, knees, arms, ears, tree**): If a stray dog approaches you, stand still like a _____. Put your _____ at your sides and stare straight _____. If the dog knocks you down, curl your _____ into your chest and cover your _____ with your fists.
4. The best way to pet a dog is by:
 - a) patting him gently on his back or sides
 - b) wrapping your arms around him in a big bear hug
 - c) looking him directly in the eye and patting him on the head
5. Which dog would be safest to pet?
 - a) a dog whose tail is up and waving slowly back and forth
 - b) a dog whose tail is between his legs, with his ears down
 - c) a dog whose tail is low and waving quickly back and forth, ears relaxed
6. True or false: When children are bitten by dogs, it's usually by stray dogs.
7. When you see a dog tied up on a leash or behind a fence, you should:
 - a) pet him gently
 - b) try to set him free
 - c) be sure not to get within his reach
8. You should leave pets alone when they are:
 - a) eating
 - b) sleeping
 - c) playing with a favorite toy
 - d) all of the above



Lesson Plan: Understanding Dogs' Body Language

Objective

To increase students' knowledge of dog body language in order that they avoid dog bites.

Skills

Students will be able to identify by sight dogs who are angry or afraid and thus more likely to bite.

Materials

- writing utensils
- "What Is This Dog Telling You?" handout on page 7 and worksheet on page 8

Activity

After viewing illustrations of dog body language to determine how dogs are feeling, students complete a worksheet.

Procedure

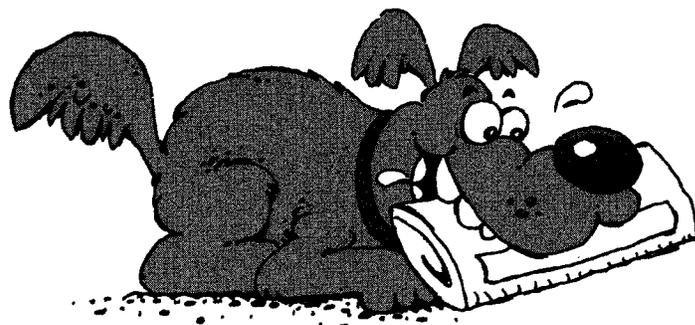
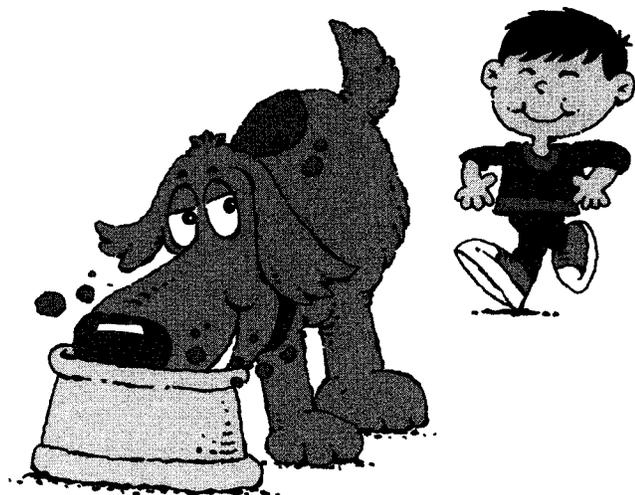
1. Ask students to make faces as if they're angry, sad, happy, or afraid. Explain that just as people have feelings, so do dogs. Though their faces don't express emotion quite the way ours do, dogs indicate their feelings through body language. Tell students that by observing dogs' body language, we can often tell when a dog is more likely to bite.
2. Make several copies of the handout "What Is This Dog Telling You?" Divide your class into groups and give each group a copy of the handout. Ask students to study each dog's body language and, as a group, identify

how that dog might be feeling. Next to each picture, have them write one or two words describing the dog's feelings.

3. After students have finished, discuss dogs' body language. Begin by pointing to the first illustration in the handout. Did students guess that this dog is angry? His ears are stiff, his tail is stiff and high, and he is snarling. In the second illustration, the dog is afraid. His ears are held low, his tail is between his legs, and he is shivering and shrinking to the ground. In the third illustration, the dog is happy. His ears are up, his tail is low and wagging, and his mouth is relaxed and open. With the owner's permission, this dog is likely safe to pet. In the fourth illustration, the dog is not only happy, he's playful. He is engaged in a typical "play bow," with his head lowered to his front paws and his tail wagging.

4. Ask students which dogs they think are safe to pet. The correct answers are the happy and playful dogs in the third and fourth illustrations—but even then, only with the owner's permission. Explain that we should stay away from dogs whose body language exhibits fear or anger, because those dogs are more likely to bite.

5. In a few days, distribute the worksheet "What Is this Dog Telling You?" on page 8 to reinforce this lesson.



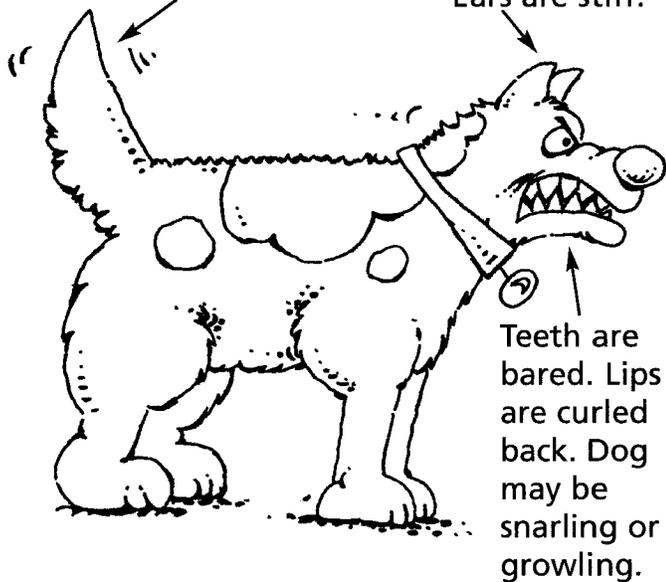
What Is This Dog Telling You?

Permission granted to classroom teachers to duplicate for classroom use. Reproduction by others for any purpose is prohibited without written permission from NAHEE. © 2002 NAHEE, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423. www.nahee.org

1

Tail is held high and stiff and may be wagging.

Ears are stiff.

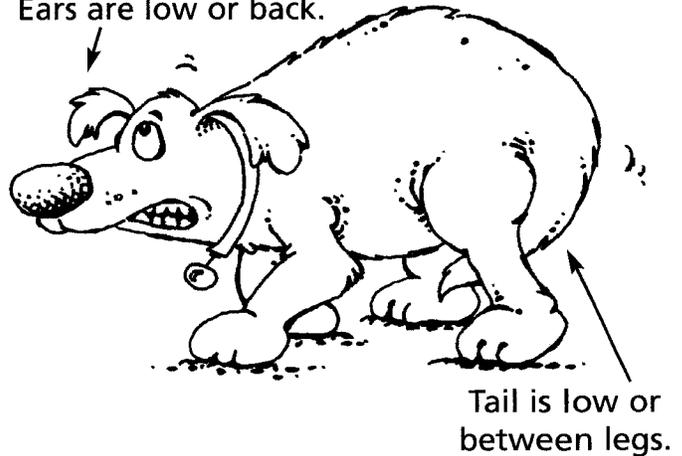


Teeth are bared. Lips are curled back. Dog may be snarling or growling.

2

Body may be shaking or close to the ground.

Ears are low or back.

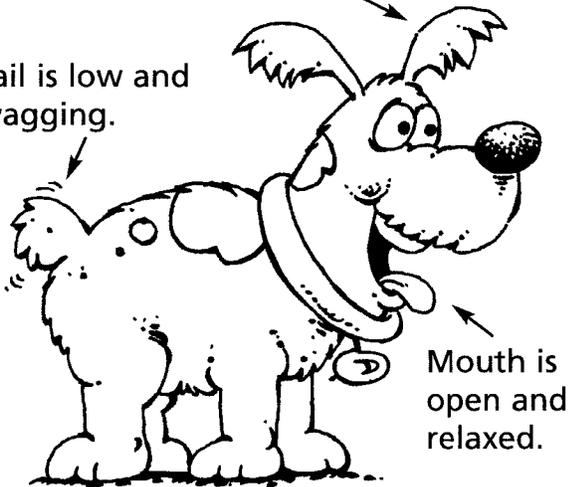


Tail is low or between legs.

3

Ears are forward and relaxed.

Tail is low and wagging.



Mouth is open and relaxed.

4

Tail is wagging.

Ears are forward and relaxed.



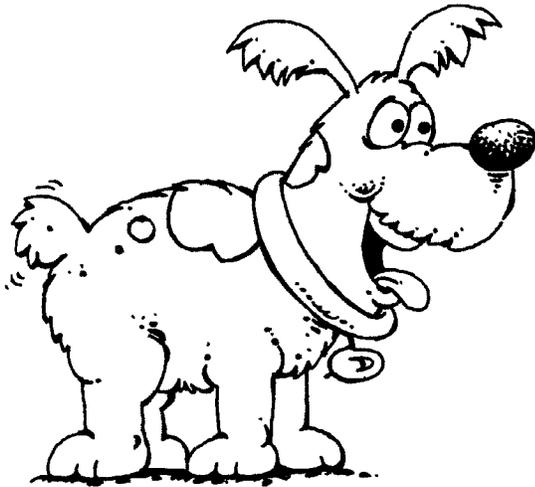
Head is resting on forepaws.

Name _____

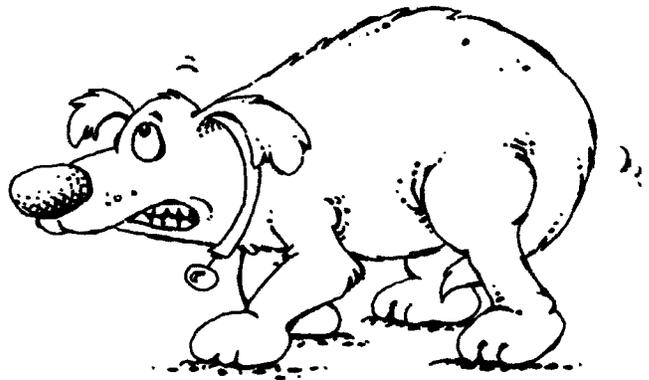
What Is This Dog Telling You?

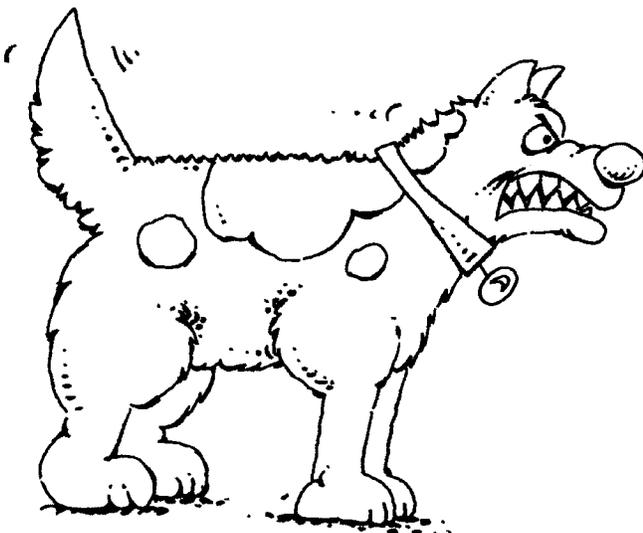
Just like people, dogs have feelings. Sometimes they are **happy**, **afraid**, **angry**, or **playful**. We can often tell how dogs are feeling by their body language.

Look at these pictures. In the blanks, write how the dog is feeling. Then write two sentences describing what the dog might be thinking. The first one has been done for you.



This dog is happy.
"I am in a good mood! I wouldn't mind at all if someone patted me!"







Name _____

The Word on Dog Safety

How can you stay safe around dogs? **BARK!** Be Aware, Responsible, and Kind.

Be aware: learn and understand; know what's going on around you.

Be responsible: do what you are supposed to do; consider the effects your actions may have on you and others.

Be kind: be caring and loving.

On the left are ways that you can show you are aware, responsible, or kind. Match each of these with the word on the right that *best* describes the action. The first one has been done for you.

1. Give your dog lots of love and attention.
2. Always walk dogs on leashes. Never allow dogs to roam.
3. Understand a dog's body language. Know that if he is growling and his ears or tail are stiff, you should stay away.
4. Play gentle games with dogs, like fetch. Don't play tug of war, which can make dogs aggressive.
5. Always ask the owner before petting any dog.
6. Be gentle with all animals.
7. Have your dogs spayed or neutered. Those simple operations can reduce the chance that dogs will bite.
8. Learn as much as you can about how dogs communicate by the way they look, act, and sound.

AWARE

RESPONSIBLE

KIND



1. kind 2. responsible 3. aware 4. kind 5. responsible
6. kind 7. responsible 8. aware

On the back, design a poster around the phrase "BARK to Prevent a Bite." Be sure to include the words that "BARK" stands for and some examples of how people can avoid dog bites.



Back for More ▶

Name _____

Safety Circle

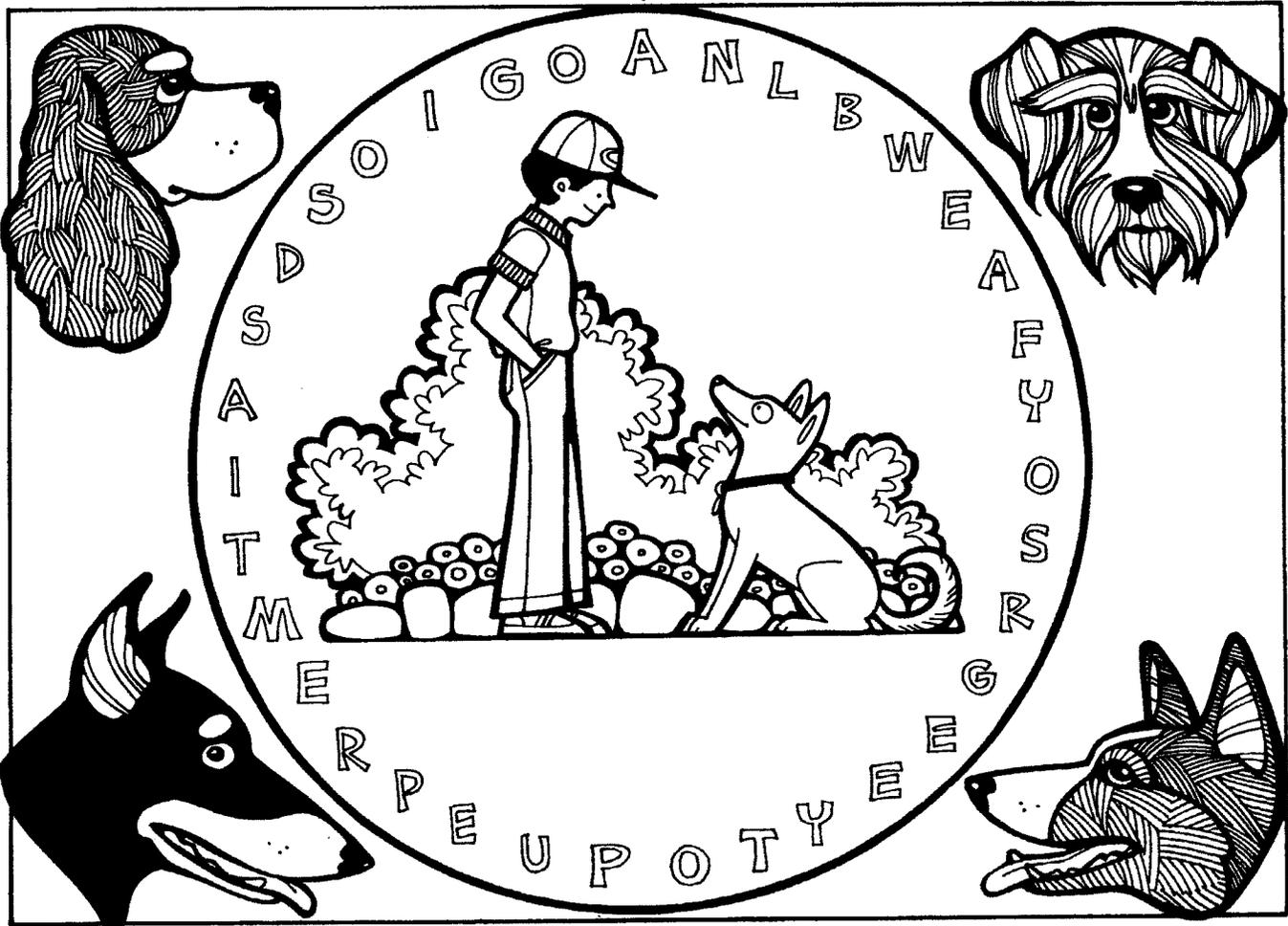


Safety around dogs is important! To learn a very important dog safety rule, start at the arrow and write down **every other letter** on the lines below. Go all the way

around the circle twice, and then read the rule you have written down. I've done the first two letters to get you started.

A L

-----!



Always get permission before you pet a dog.



Sometimes dogs bite when they are protecting something. On the back, write at least five things that a dog might protect.

◀ Back for More

Name _____

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

When is a dog most likely to bite? When the dog is angry, hurt, or afraid. Or when he or she is protecting something, like food or puppies. Read each example

below. Circle the thumbs up if it is OK to pet the dog. Circle the thumbs down if it is not OK to pet the dog. Check your answers at the bottom.



1. Rufus has a toy bone. He is keeping it safe between his paws.



2. Sadie just had puppies yesterday. They are quietly nursing (drinking their mother's milk).



3. Bonnie was spayed yesterday. She is a little sore from the operation.



4. Turnips is wagging her tail. Her owner says it is fine to pet Turnips.



5. Waldo is sitting in a car. He is keeping the car safe until his owner comes back.



6. Jasper is eating. This is his favorite time of day.



7. Barney is afraid of loud noises. Someone is running the vacuum cleaner.



8. Daisy is in her fenced yard. She barks loudly when people come near the fence.



9. Cuddles is crouched down on his front paws. He is wagging his tail, and he has a ball. His owner says you can play with Cuddles.



10. Your dog, Kelly, has just dropped a ball at your feet while playing fetch.



11. Buster has met a new dog. He is staring at the other dog and growling softly.



12. Lucky is sound asleep. She has had a long day.



Thumbs down: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12

Thumbs up: 4, 9, 10

Choose one of the sentences above. On the back, illustrate that sentence. Draw yourself behaving safely around the dog.



Back for More ▶

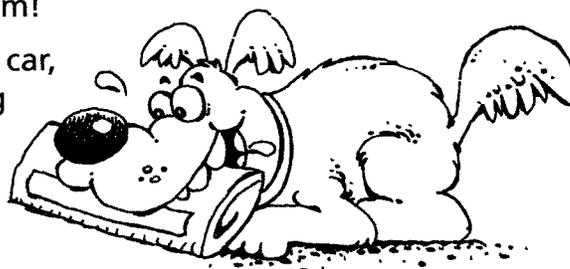
Name _____

Safety Scramble

Most dog bites can be prevented. The trick is learning how to avoid being bitten! The sentences below tell about ways of staying safe around our furry friends. Unscramble

the **bold** word in each sentence and write the word correctly in each blank. Use the word box if you need help.

1. Always leave **ragnets** _____ dogs alone.
2. Before you pet a dog, always ask his **rowen** _____ if it is OK.
3. If a dog is hurt or afraid, leave her alone. Get an **utlad** _____ to help.
4. If a dog is **rangy** _____, do not pet him!
5. A dog may **cortpet** _____ a yard, toy, car, food, or person. If a dog is protecting something or someone, **veela** _____ the dog alone.
6. When a dog is sleeping, nursing, or **tingea** _____, leave her alone.
7. If a dog growls at you or starts to **sehac** _____ you, stay still. Don't run. A dog is more likely to **ffins** _____ you and go away if you stay still.
8. If you are ever bitten or scratched by an **amilna** _____, tell an adult right away. Describe what the animal looked like and where you were when you were **nitbet** _____.



adult	animal	chase	owner	sniff	eating
angry	bitten	leave	protect	strange	

1. strange 2. owner 3. adult 4. angry 5. protect, leave
6. eating 7. chase, sniff 8. animal, bitten



Imagine you are a dog protecting your fenced yard. On the back, write a paragraph that explains why protecting your home is important to you.

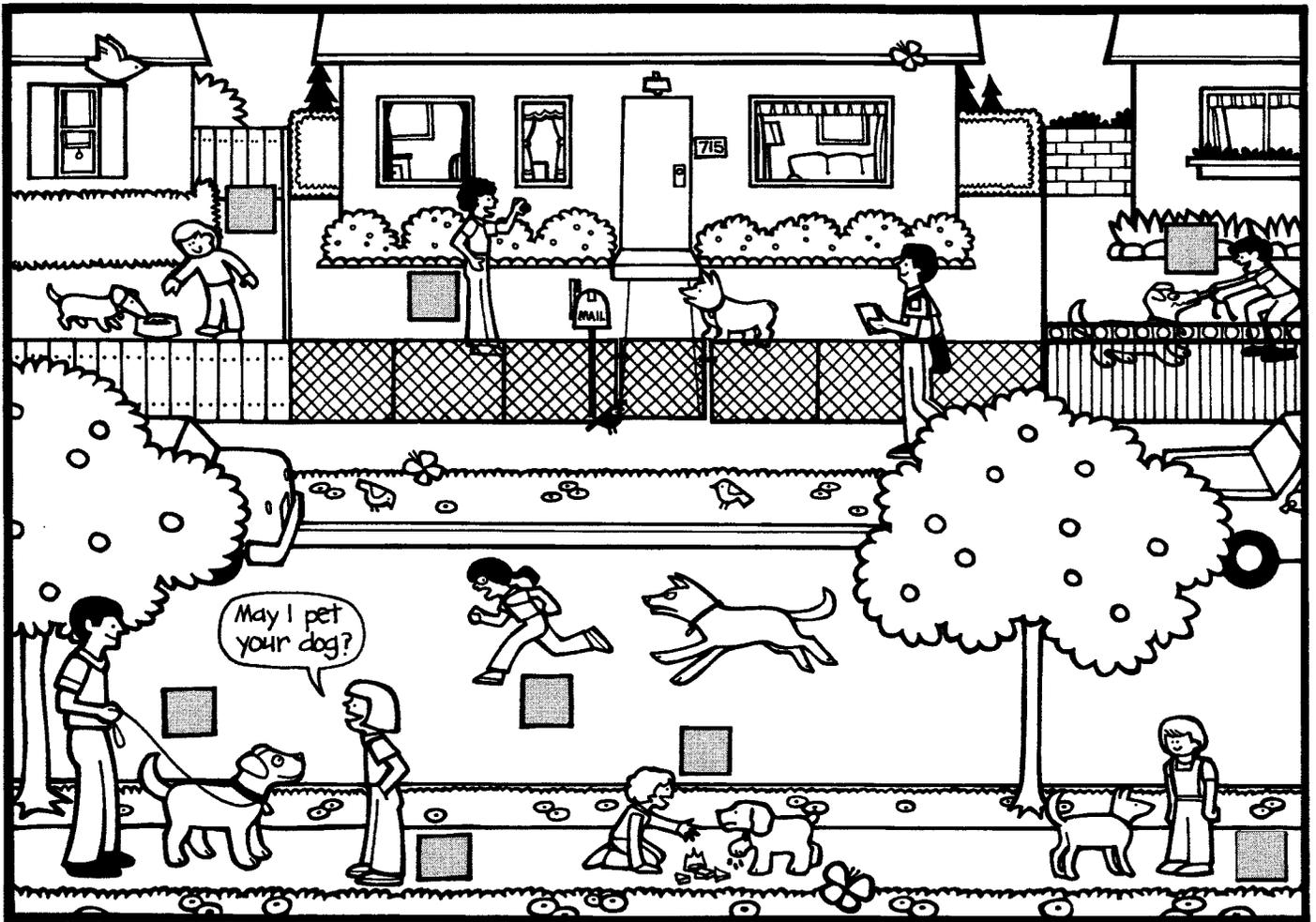
◀ Back for More

Name _____

Dog Bite Dos and Don'ts

How can we prevent dog bites? By being responsible pet owners and behaving safely around dogs. Look at this picture. Write an **S** in the box next to each example of

someone behaving safely and responsibly with a dog. Write a **U** in the box next to each example that shows unsafe behavior around a dog.



Answers are on the back. 

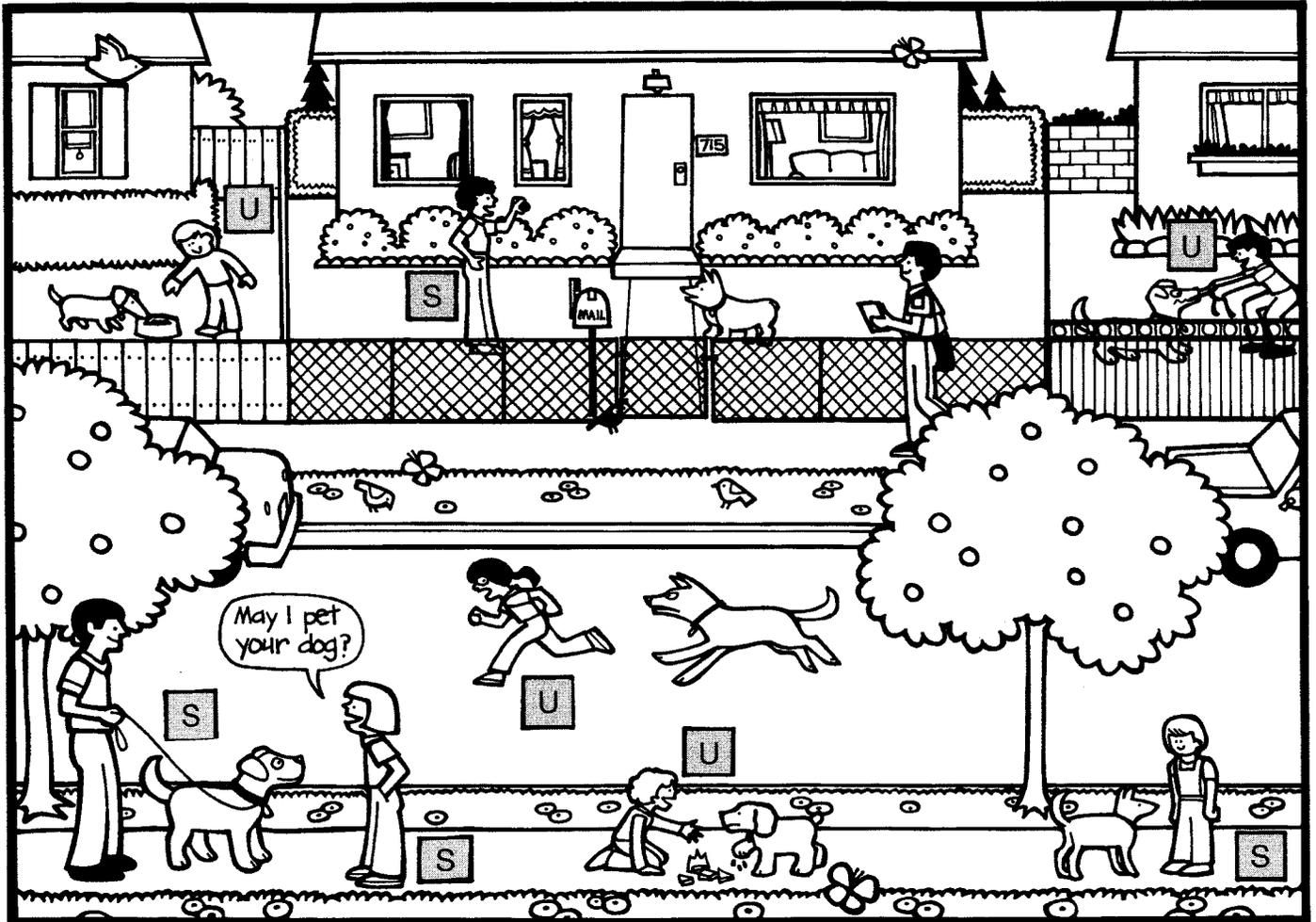
Answer Key: Dog Bite Dos and Don'ts

Safe, responsible behavior (S)

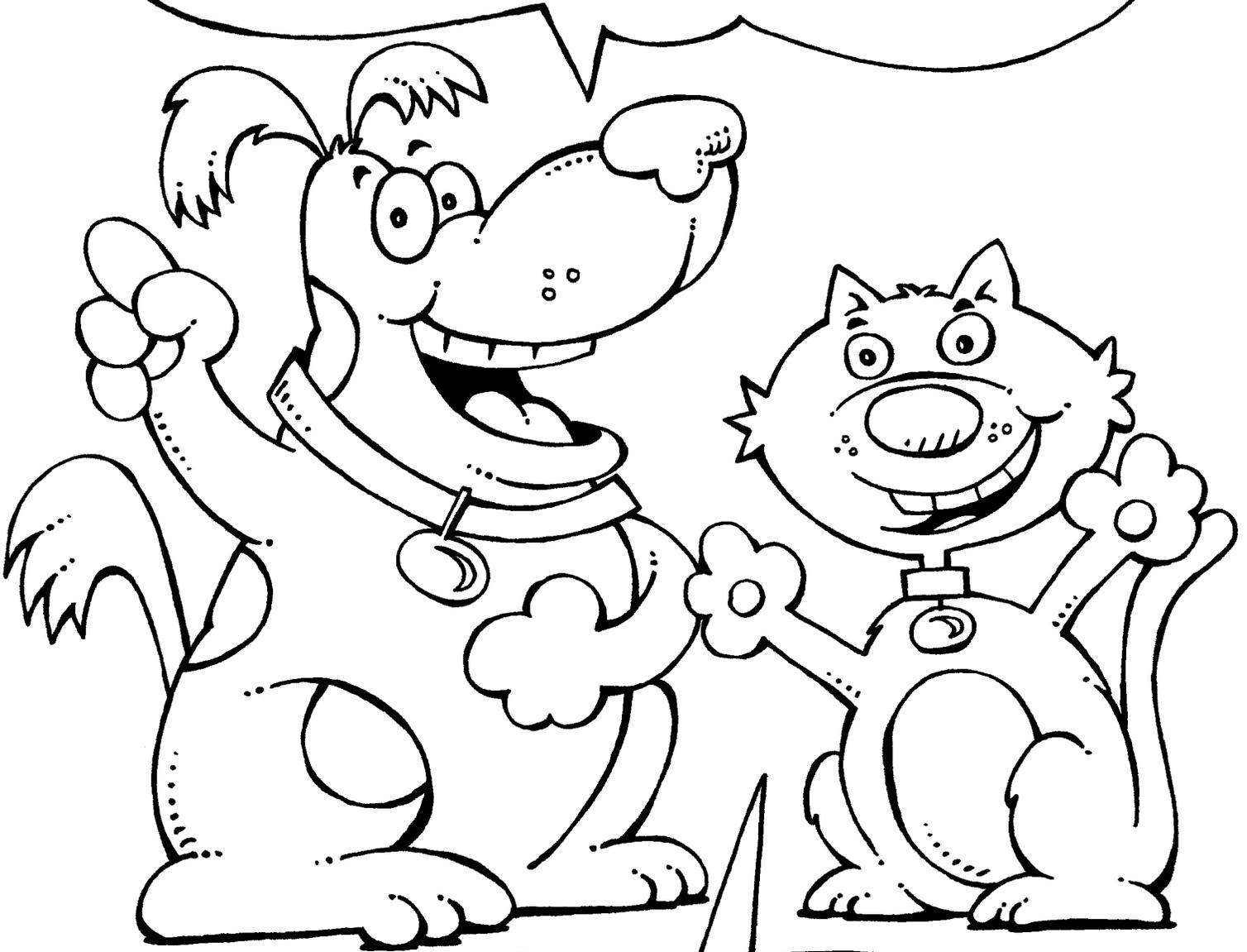
-  **Man walking his dog on a leash.** Always walk dogs on leashes, and never allow them to roam.
-  **Girl asking, "May I pet your dog?"** Always ask the owner's permission before petting a dog.
-  **Boy standing still as dog approaches.** Remember, if a stray dog approaches you, be like a tree. Place your hands at your sides, remain quiet, and stare straight ahead.
-  **Woman in a fenced yard playing fetch with her dog.** Always play gently with dogs; fetch is a fun, safe game. When you're not walking your dog, keep him indoors with you or in a fenced yard.

Unsafe behavior (U)

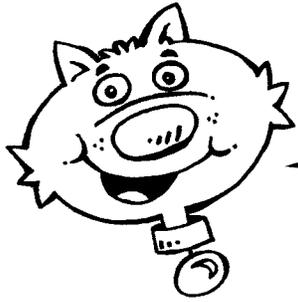
-  **Boy approaching dog who's eating.** Dogs protect their food. Stay away from dogs while they're eating.
-  **Boy playing tug of war with dog.** Never try to pull anything from a dog's mouth. Avoid games like tug of war, which teaches dogs to be aggressive. Always play gently with dogs.
-  **Girl reaching out to injured dog.** Dogs who are sick or hurt may bite. Stay away from injured dogs and tell an adult if you think a dog needs help.
-  **Girl running away from dog.** A dog's natural instinct is to chase prey. Never run away from a dog. Instead, stand still, like a tree. The dog will likely sniff you and walk away.



Hi, there! I'm Turnips! Welcome to the **BARK** Dog Bite Prevention Program. **BARK** stands for "Be Aware, Responsible, and Kind." By being aware, responsible, and kind, we can prevent most dog bites from happening.



That's right, Turnips! By the way, I'm Humphrey. We'll be your guides as you learn how to stay safe around dogs. Let's start coloring!

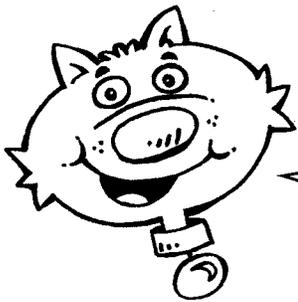


You probably know to stay away from strange dogs.



But did you know that most bites are from dogs you already know? That includes your own pets and those of your neighbors, friends, and family.



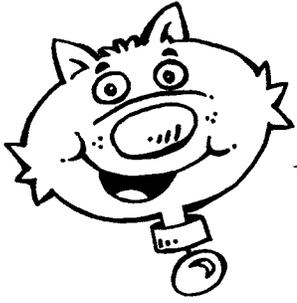


What are some reasons dogs bite?



When dogs are hurt or sick, they may bite if you come too close. Stay away from pets who aren't feeling well. Get an adult if you think a dog needs help.

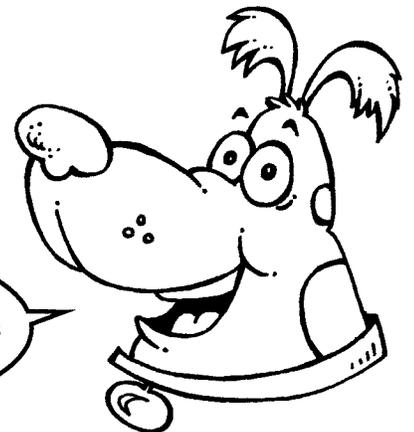


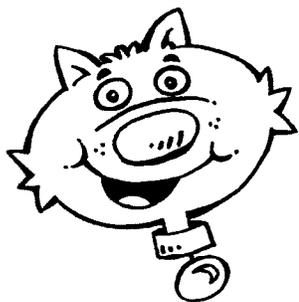


Dogs may also bite when they're surprised or scared.

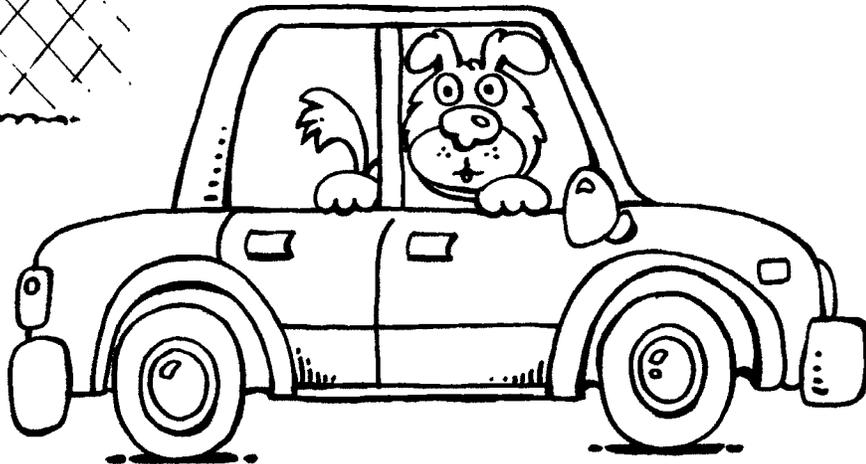
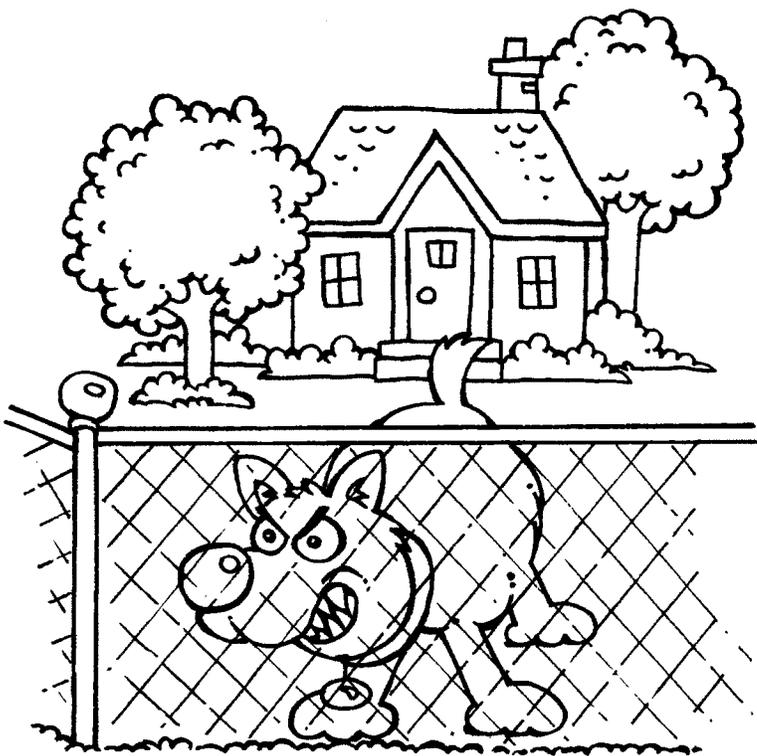


So don't ever sneak up on pets—especially when they're eating or sleeping!



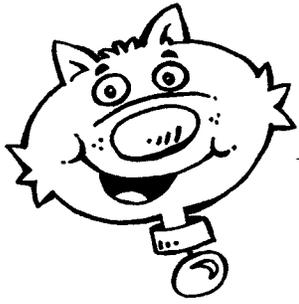


Dogs may bite when they're protecting something.



That includes their toys, puppies, home, owner, or even their owner's car!





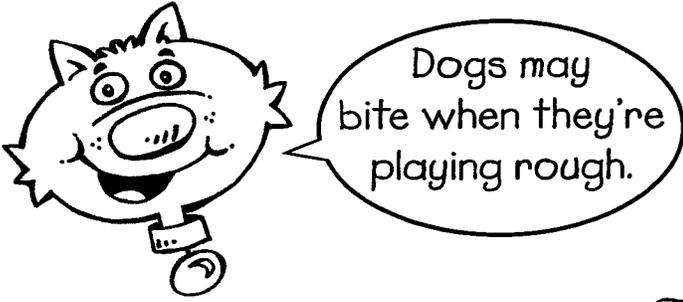
Dogs may bite
people who try to break
up dog fights.



Never try to
break up a dog fight. Ask
an adult for help!

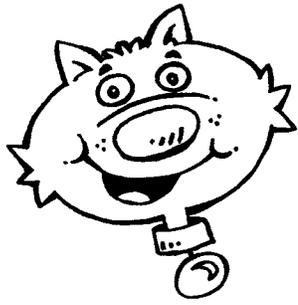


Permission granted to classroom teachers to duplicate for classroom use. Reproduction by others for any purpose is prohibited without written permission from NAHEE. © 2002 NAHEE, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423. www.nahee.org



Don't play rough with your dog. Try a brisk walk or a game of fetch instead!



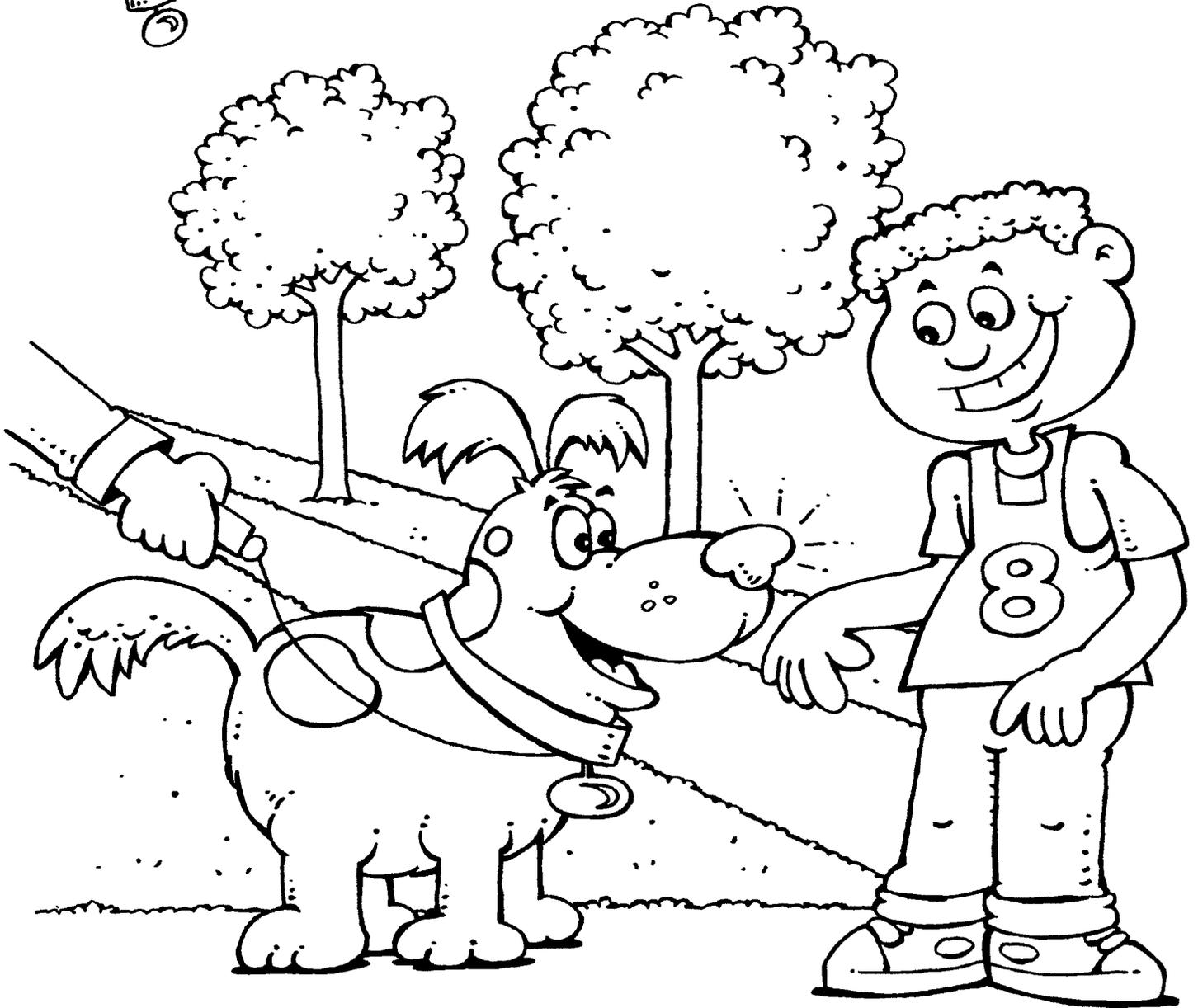
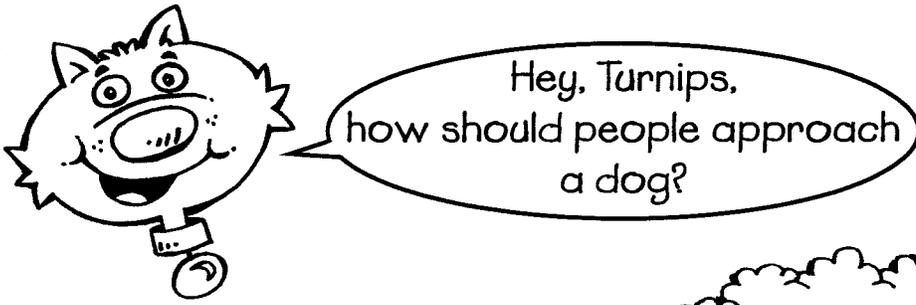


So, how can you stay safe around dogs?



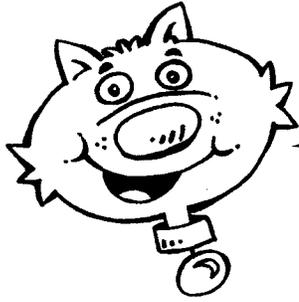
Here's the first rule:
ALWAYS ask the owner's permission before petting a dog. If you don't see a dog's owner, then don't pet the dog!





Walk up slowly to a dog from the
side. Speak softly. Loud noises scare us!
Turn your hand palm down and let
the dog sniff it.





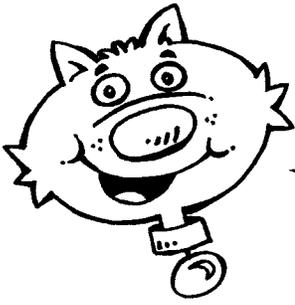
Once you've gotten permission, how should you pet a dog?



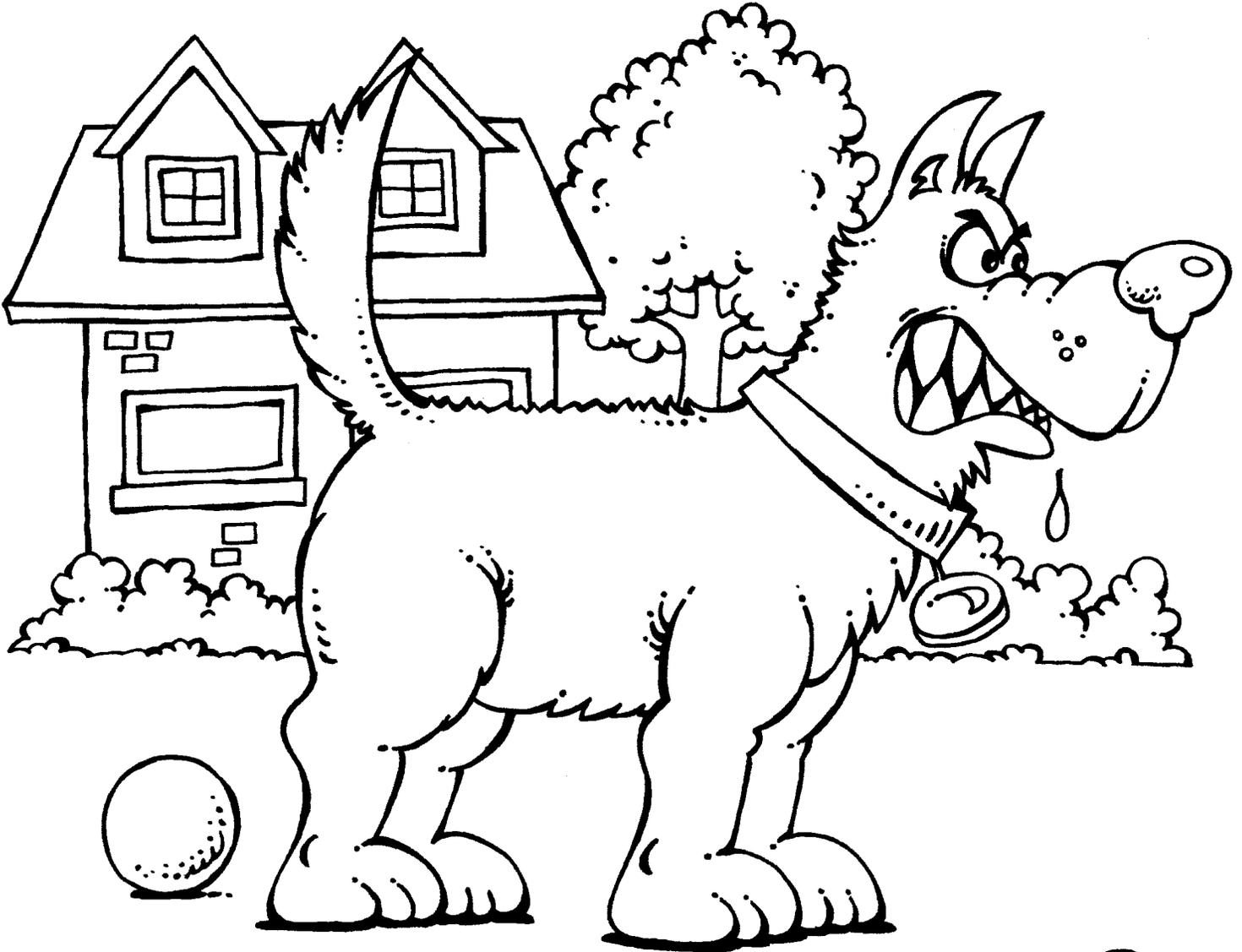
Pet the dog gently on the back or sides. Avoid petting dogs on the head or around the mouth.



Permission granted to classroom teachers to duplicate for classroom use. Reproduction by others for any purpose is prohibited without written permission from NAHEE. © 2002 NAHEE, P.O. Box 362, East Haddam, CT 06423. www.nahee.org

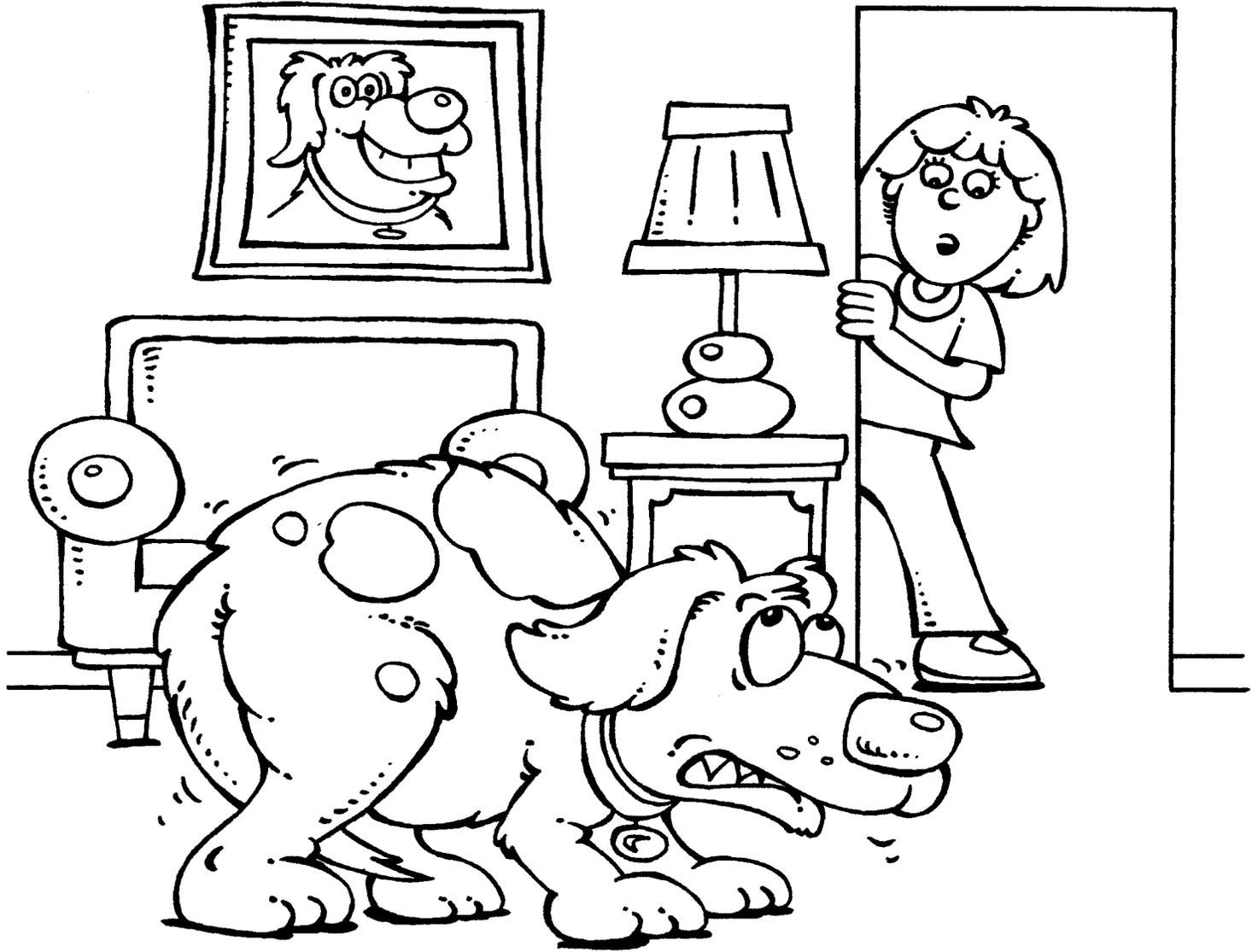
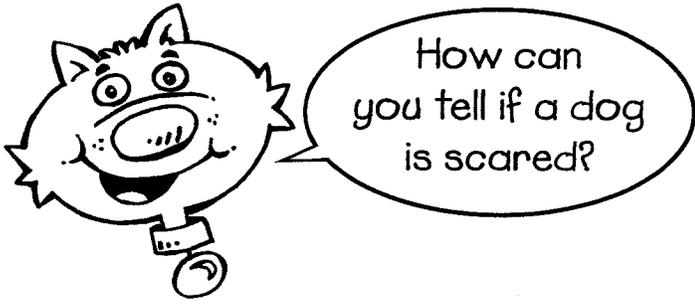


How can you tell if a dog is angry?



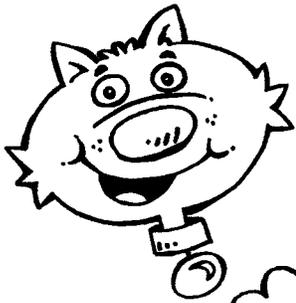
That's easy! Just look at this dog. Her ears and tail are stiff. Her lips are curled and her teeth are bared. Her fur is standing on end. If these pages could talk, I bet you'd hear her growling, too. Stay away from angry dogs!





Well, check this dog out. His ears are back, and his head is hanging low to the ground. His body is crouched down, and his tail is between his legs. Stay away from scared dogs!



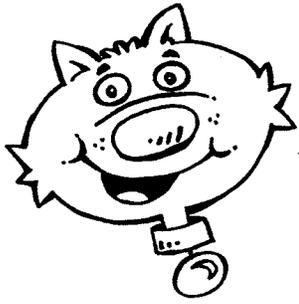


What should kids do when a strange dog approaches?



Stand still like a tree!
Hang your arms at your sides. Be perfectly still. Remain silent and stare straight ahead.



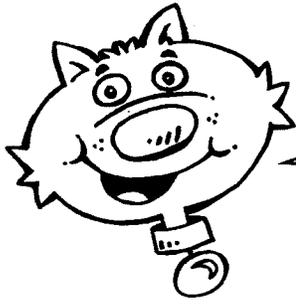


What should kids do if a dog knocks them down?



Lie like a log! Roll your knees into your chest. Make your hands into fists and hold them over your ears. Be quiet and remain still. The dog will likely sniff you and walk away.





But what if a dog attacks anyway?



Use anything you can find as a shield, like a purse or backpack. Let the dog bite the shield.



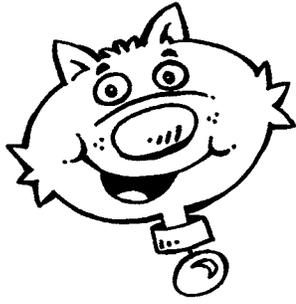


What should kids do if a dog bites them?



As soon as the dog leaves, find an adult and have him or her take care of your bite wound. Also describe what the dog looked like and what direction he went in. And make sure the bite is reported to your city's animal control officer. That can help prevent someone else from being bitten!





That sounds like a plan! How else can kids prevent dog bites?



Be a responsible pet owner!
Always walk dogs on a leash and never let them roam. To keep dogs healthy, take them to the veterinarian for regular checkups. And always be gentle and loving to your pets. After all, pets are part of the family!



Notes

