

**Introduction to Canine Behaviour And Responsible Dog Ownership**

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**ON BEHALF OF CHEADLE & DISTRICT ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY**

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**GENERAL SAFETY AROUND DOGS**

* **Always ask an owner if it’s ok to stroke their dog**
* **Never hold eye contact with an unfamiliar dog**
* **Should you fear that a potentially aggressive dog is approaching you or sniffing around you, DO NOT RUN!!!! Avoid all eye contact, remain calm and very slowly walk away.**
* **Be particularly careful if approaching dog’s that are tied up outside of a shop for example, these animals can be particularly fearful as their flight response is impeded.**
* **NEVER hold your fingers out in front of a dogs nose for it to smell you, digits are easy to grab hold of and extremely painful if bitten!!**
* **Don’t kick or hit out at a dog to make it go away. Should the dog react with an aggressive response you are offering it a limb to hang on to!!**
* **If a dog appears to be nervous, leave it well alone!!!**
* **Be cautious if approaching a dog whose sight or hearing is impaired. A startled or frightened dog WILL React aggressively if it feels it needs to protect itself.**

**CHILD SAFETY AROUND DOGS**

* **Teach your dog from the outset to be calm around children. Do not encourage excitable behaviour.**
* **Teach your child to be calm and careful around dogs.**
* **Children should never approach a strange dog they don’t know.**
* **Children should only pat or play with a dog at the owner’s discretion.**
* **Do not allow children to tease a dog with food, toys or play roughly.**
* **Don’t let children disturb a sleeping/eating/ill/injured/deaf or elderly dog.**
* **NEVER leave small children alone at any time with any dog!!!**
* **Useful contacts:**
* [**www.hmso.gov.uk**](http://www.hmso.gov.uk)
* [**www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk**](http://www.eaststaffsbc.gov.uk)
* [**www.defra.gov.uk**](http://www.defra.gov.uk)
* [**www.dogstraining.org.uk**](http://www.dogstraining.org.uk)
* [**www.iace.org.uk**](http://www.iace.org.uk)
* [**www.nfuonline.com**](http://www.nfuonline.com)

**Why is it so important to socialise our dogs from an early age?**

* **Early socialisation can help in the prevention of dogs becoming nervous and fearful of people and other animals.**
* **Early socialisation can also help in the prevention of noise phobias and other anxiety related issues.**