

## Parenting: Dog Safety Activity for Kids

**Feng Shui with Fido™ Philosophy:** Getting a family dog is exciting. It is a great opportunity to teach your child responsibility and how to care for and love a dog. Often parents can get into a "don't do that" tug of war between kids and the dog. This makes the whole experience of raising children and dogs under the same roof exhausting. Creating doggy rules together can be fun. Let your kids make the rules. The key is to make this a formal event. Ask your child to help you make some Doggy Rules! Encourage them to make the right safety choices.

**get:** Ice cream, paper, colorful markers, a big poster board to color and draw on. Take a picture of your dog.

**use:** Empowers children and includes them in the process of raising the family dog.

**when:** After school or weekend activity

**where:** Kitchen

**how:** All parents need to address dog safety with their children. Dogs are everywhere: in parks, streets,



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neighborhoods relatives' homes, and friend's houses. Whether or not you are a dog owner or lover, as a parent it is your job to impart this information to your child and to make it fun. Make this a formal event. Sit down and color with your child and discuss these rules, first. Then make some rules for your own family dog!

- Never tease a dog
- Never throw anything at a dog
- Never stare at a dog
- Never run past a dog
- Never bother a dog while it is sleeping, chewing a bone, eating or protecting his territory.
- Always walk past a dog that is behind a fence
- Always get off your bicycle and walk past a dog

After this discussion, write down the rules together. Have your child choose his or her favorite color marker to decorate the rule page. Then frame the rules and place it in a prominent place. Have your child create his or her own rules with your guidance. This process empowers your child and allows your child to see the dog as a family member. \*One Rule should be to not pick up and carry the family dog... he/she is not a toy! Another may be helping to measure the dog food during feeding time. Once you have finished the activity, enjoy ice cream or any special treat with your kids.



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