



**TEACHERS:** Use these notes in conjunction with the Pat and Play the Right Way Picture Cards

**PARENTS:** Use these notes to teach yourself and then your children how to safely approach, pat and play with a dog.

## HOW TO SAFELY APPROACH a Dog



Only approach dogs who are with their owners	DON'T go into a yard with a dog to retrieve a ball or toy
Check with an adult who knows the dog before approaching	DON'T approach a dog you don't know without checking with an adult
Check the dog is not tied to anything	DON'T approach a dog that is tied up, in a car or dog crate or in their bed.
Be sure the dog sees you before approaching- a dog surprised by a sudden touch may bite	DON'T rush up and surprise dogs
Approach only if the dog is awake and shows friendly body language	DON'T approach sleeping dogs, or those who show unfriendly body language
Approach only if the dog is not playing with toys or eating	DON'T approach a dog who is eating or playing with toys
Approach calmly- rapid movement or loud voices may excite or frighten the dog	DON'T yell or use an overexcited voice
Approach from the side. Stand beside the dog(next to the shoulder)	DON'T rush towards a dog's face
Extend a hand held in a fist for the dog to sniff	DON'T pull your hand away when the dog goes to sniff

# HOW TO SAFELY PAT a Dog



Stand next to the dog's shoulder	DON'T stand in front of the dog's face
Crouch sideways to greet small dogs or dogs that are lying down.	DON'T lean over the top of any dog
Pat gently on the side of the neck or chest	DON'T pat dogs on the top of the head- they don't like it!
Use slow hand movements when patting and when taking your hand away from the dog	DON'T wave your hands in front of the dog's face
Be gentle while patting	DON'T poke, push or pull on any part of the dog
Use your hands to pat the dog	DON'T hug or kiss any dog

# HOW TO SAFELY PLAY WITH a Dog



Fetch – as long as the dog drops the retrieved item or delivers it to the hand and then backs away without trying to play tug of war or snatch the item.	Don't play 'tug-of-war' games
Hide and seek obedience games - such as calling the dog from person to person and reward him when he finds you	Don't play 'chase me' games (including chasing a dog who has shoes or your belongings in its mouth )
Hide and seek with an item- hide a treat or toy for the dog to find	Don't play wrestling games
Teaching tricks is fun for everyone!	Don't pull toys out of the dog's mouth