



Pets change lives  
We change theirs

# Be safe with dogs

There are lots of good things about having a dog: they are great friends, they keep you fit and you can learn a lot about caring and being responsible when helping to look after them. Dogs can feel a lot of the things that you can, such as happiness, anxiety/worry and fear, so it's important that you understand how to behave around dogs at home and outside, so you can enjoy being with them and can stay safe.

## To stay safe you should not approach when the dog



has a toy



is sick or injured



is sleeping



is eating



is in bed or under a table



is trying to move away



has puppies

### Rules around dogs

- Never touch a dog that is left alone
- Don't enter a garden if a dog is loose
- Never run or shout
- Do not hug a dog - how would you feel if a stranger hugged you?
- Never sneak up and surprise a dog
- Always make sure a dog has the choice to move away from you if they want to

### Reasons why a dog might bite

- Protecting themselves or their property
- Pain
- Feeling trapped
- Surprised by your actions
- Excitement
- Worried or nervous

### How to greet a dog using the 3Cs of Canine Choice

Think - do I really need to stroke them? Remember they may be busy or having a bad day

- **Check** – ask the owner first
- **Call** – call the dog to you by patting your legs gently and saying "hello"
- **Count** – if the dog comes to you, count three strokes on their shoulder and then stop, giving the dog the choice to move away

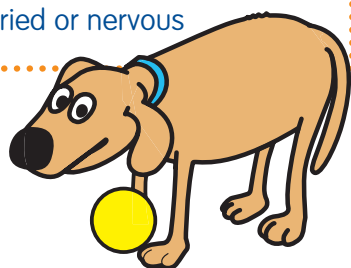
The 3Cs of Canine Choice will help keep you and the dog safe and happy

### If a strange dog runs up to you

- Stand still
- Drop food or toys away from you
- Fold your arms
- Make no noise
- Look away from the dog

### If you are knocked to the ground

- Roll up like a stone with your face to the ground
- Cover your face with your hands
- Be as silent and still as a stone



Of the people who get bitten

70% of bites happen in the home

80% are bitten by a dog they know

Blue Cross is a charity that has been changing the lives of sick, injured and homeless pets, and the people who love them, since 1897.



# Dog body language - read the signs



## Please leave me alone



I am afraid. I'm covering away from you and may hide under furniture. See how my ears are flat back. I may show my teeth, snarl or growl.



I don't want my tummy tickled. I am really scared. I moved away from you and rolled on my back, and my tail is tucked between my legs. I am so scared that if you come to tickle me, I might think you are going to hurt me and I might bite.



## I'm not sure about you yet



I'm moving slowly and lowering my head. My paw is raised and I may lick my lips to show I am a little unsure.



I am moving away from you with my head lower than my shoulders. I have tucked my tail away and may glance over my shoulder and show the white of my eye.



My head is lowered and my tail is tucked away. I am looking at you sideways and may yawn to show I am not sure about you.



## Happy to meet you



My body is relaxed. Look how my ears are forward or relaxed and my tongue is hanging. I am wagging my tail and my body.



I am feeling playful and excited. I want you to play with me! My front legs are right forward and my back end is raised. My tail is high and wagging. I may drop my ball for you to throw.



My tail is wagging. You can tell from my face that I'm interested and alert - look how relaxed my jaw is and my tongue is hanging down.

### Blue Cross

Sick, injured and homeless pets have relied on us since 1897. Thousands of abandoned or unwanted pets turn to us for help every year. Our doors are always open to them and the people who love them and with your support, they always will be.

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