

Things to take into consideration for child safety around the family dog

Place a check mark to indicate the yes/no answer to the question. This is intended to serve as a guide and is not meant to be a basis for definitive conclusions.

Socialization & adaptability

Yes No

- Has your dog been around infants?
- Has your dog been around toddlers?
- Have you been around playing children with your dog in your home?
- Have you been around playing children with your dog outside?
- Does your dog shy away from children? *
- Does your dog startle easily to sudden noise? *
- Do sudden movements cause a reaction in your dog? (bark, hide, growl) *
- Does your dog choose to go to another room when you have a group of guests in your home?
- Does your dog show fear, guarding or caution when guests enter your home *

Home environment

Yes No

- Do you use a tie out or is your dog on a chain when outside? *
- Does your dog have full access to the entire yard?
- Does your dog have a separate fenced in area in your yard?
- Is your dog permitted on furniture?
- Does he object when asked to get down or move over? *
- Is your dog allowed complete free roam of the house all the time?
- Are there family members that are uncomfortable or do not like your dog?
- Does anyone engage in rough play with your dog?

- r** **r** Is there someone your dog seems more protective of? *
- r** **r** Does your dog guard a certain space in your home? *

Tactile sensitivities:

Yes No

- r** **r** Is there any type of physical condition your dog has that may cause him pain or discomfort?
- r** **r** Are there areas on your dog that he does not like to be touched?
- r** **r** Does your dog object to being handled? Does he growl, snap or wriggle to get away? *
- r** **r** If you pick up your dog will he respond by snapping or growling? *
- r** **r** Do you ever see the white of the dog's eye in a half moon shape when he is touched?
- r** **r** Does your dog yawn or lick his chops, or suddenly begin scratching or grooming when he is touched?
- r** **r** Does your dog get up and leave when touched?
- r** **r** Does your dog do a wet dog shake after being touched?
- r** **r** Has your dog ever put his mouth over the arm or hand of a person who has tried to touch or lead him? *

Behaviors

Yes No

- r** **r** Does your dog have ways that he regularly "demands" your attention? (ex: pawing, nipping, whining?) *
- r** **r** Does your dog get excited about bikes, cars, and any fast moving object?
- r** **r** Does your dog like to chase children? *
- r** **r** Is your dog an escape artist?
- r** **r** Does your dog growl when you or others approach his food bowl? *
- r** **r** Does your dog guard any other high value treat such as rawhide, pigs ear, underwear? *

- r r Does your dog charge the front door?
- r r Does he have his own landscaping technique? (digging)
- r r Is there someone or a type of person your dog seems fearful or nervous about?
- r r Has your dog ever growled when you took something away from him? *
- r r Has your dog ever bitten, or bruised anyone? *
- r r Does your dog complain vocally to you if asked to do something? Ex, growl, snap, whine? *
- r r Does your dog walk nicely on a leash with you?
- r r Does your dog walk nicely on a leash with anyone who holds the leash?
- r r Does your dog jump on people?
- r r Has your dog ever snapped, growled or bitten a child or other person? *
- r r Does your dog get along with other dogs ?

Child-related questions

- r r Does your child generally obey when asked to do something for you?
- r r Does your child run and play exciting games in the house?
- r r Does your child like to hug the dog?
- r r Does your child like to play dress-up with the dog?
- r r Does your child like to tease or excite the dog? *
- r r Is your child usually calm and gentle with the dog?
- r r Does your dog respect your children and obey them?
- r r Does your dog usually get up and leave when children are around?
- r r Does your dog try to play rough games with children? *
- r r Has your dog ever growled at your child? *
- r r Has your dog ever snapped at or actually bitten your child? *
- r r Does your child feed the dog from the table?
- r r Does your dog raise his tail when children approach? *

General questions

Yes No

- Is your dog spayed or neutered?
- Has your dog been exposed to protection training of any kind?
- Will your child be watched by another caretaker or babysitter during the day?
- Has your dog been ever been rehomed?
- Do you have more than one dog?

Any checkmarks that are in shaded boxes indicate areas where problems could occur and you may want to consider making changes in these areas to reduce the risk of a biting incident. Some of the changes may involve simply changing your routine, creating house rules for kids and dogs, increasing your level of supervision or taking a refresher course in dog obedience.

Questions with an * beside them that you have checked the shaded box indicate a potentially dangerous situation for your child and you should seek professional help or change the situation as soon as possible.

If your answers raised concerns then we encourage you to seek the help of a trainer or behaviour consultant in your area to work with to help you reduce the risk of a biting incident.

NOW IS THE TIME!

For more information and to learn more about dog body language and positive dog training and to help find a trainer or behaviour specialist in your area please visit the Doggone Safe website at www.doggonesafe.com.

Congratulations and good for you for thinking ahead!