

Top 10 ways to prevent pet and people problems

1. **Never leave your child under the age of 5 alone with a dog.** When you leave, the dog knows no one will prevent the child from grabbing at the dog, which increases the dog's tension about the child. Also the dog may growl at the child, and the child will not understand to leave the dog alone – resulting in a bite.
2. **No food of any kind within 6 feet of the dog and people.** It is so easy to drop food, and as the dog goes for the food, and you reach they may bite.
3. **Do not let your children take toys away from the dog or cat**
4. **Keep dogs and cats at least 6 feet away from a baby laying on the floor or a bed** – The small infant sounds like wounded prey and may activate predatory aggression. Be safe – keep the dog behind a gate or supervised away from the baby.
5. **Reward your dog or cat for ignoring children** running, yelling and acting up.
6. **Do not allow anyone to hug or pet a sleeping dog or cat.** The animal will startle and may bite due to the stimulation.
7. **Provide a minimum of 3 perches per cat off the floor** so they can be out of the way of visitors or children.
8. **Have the visitor or child play fetch with the dog or feather toy play with the cat** to build upon fun experiences safely.
9. **Leave the dog or cat alone when they are near their food bowls.**
10. **Avoid kissing or looking into the face of a dog or cat** – this is very confrontation to the animal and they may react.

If your pet is hissing, growling, staring at strangers or kids and you are following the above steps contact your veterinarian immediately. These signs are brewing aggression and your pet needs more help!

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