

Grade One Humane Education Curriculum

"Bite Free"

30 minutes

Through use of pictures and discussion, the children will be shown pictures of games played with dogs and will be asked to vote whether each is a safe or unsafe game. (Safe: fetch, learning tricks, hide-and-seek; Unsafe: tug-of-war, jump for treats/toys, wrestling/rolling on floor with dog.) They will learn basic safety rules to prevent dog bites: never roll around/wrestle with a dog, tease, hit, pull ears/tail, hug excessively, run from a dog, stare into its eyes, approach an unattended dog. They will be taught the body language of an angry/dangerous dog: an angry expression with lips curled back, teeth bared, growling and barking, raised hair down its back, tail standing straight and still.

Through pictures and stories, the children will learn the situations which would mean it is unsafe to approach a dog (even though he doesn't appear to be angry): if a dog has a favourite bone or toy, if a dog is eating, sleeping, if a dog is guarding his owner's car, guarding it's yard, if it's tied up, or if it's straining on its leash.

A short video and hands-on practice of the "Tree" and "Log" safety positions will give children the tools to protect themselves from potentially dangerous situations with loose dogs. If a strange dog approaches off leash, to stay safe, the child will learn to 'stand like a tree'. If the dog growls or barks, the child should slowly back away without staring into the eyes of the dog. If the dog attacks, the child should 'lie like a log'. The children practice these 3 safety techniques.

The children also learn the safe way to meet a new dog who is on leash with its owner. They must first ask permission of the owner; secondly, they must let the dog sniff the back of their hand, and thirdly, they must pet the dog under its chin. To stay safe, a person should never crouch down in front of a dog to pet it, as this could scare the dog and cause it to bite the child's face. All children will have an opportunity to practice the steps of meeting a dog for the first time with our education dog.

A follow-up hand-out will be given to the teacher to reinforce the safety strategies learned in the presentation.