

DOG SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Helping children from Nursery to KS2 stay safe and gain confidence with dogs!



Holistic Hounds

Award-Winning Dog Training & Therapy

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING DOG SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Studies have shown that nearly a **third** of children are scared of dogs and around **1.1 thousand** children are bitten by dogs each year.

Children every year are getting injured by dogs and with no formal education on dog safety currently available in schools or youth clubs, more and more children are getting scared and fearful of dogs.



A survey conducted in 2022 found that there is an estimated 13 million dogs in the UK alone! With so many dogs all across the UK and more and more children becoming nervous or scared of dogs, it is getting increasingly difficult to avoid areas where dogs may be in order to keep children safe.

This is where our education programme comes in!

HOW CAN WE HELP?

As a professional dog training company who have specialised in aggression cases during our time, we began creating an education programme to put forward to schools and local youth centres to try to help children to gain confidence and knowledge on HOW to interact safely with dogs!

With our own dogs to help, we visit local schools and children's clubs to teach them the safest ways to interact with dogs and build their confidence up by interacting with calm, gentle and friendly dogs who love meeting and getting fuss.



These sessions are intended to teach children of all ages safe ways to interact with dogs, the importance of asking permission before touching dogs, why people may not want their dogs to be touched, where dogs do and don't like to be touched and what rules they should follow when touching dogs in order to stay safe.

The goal is to help children to gain confidence around dogs whilst learning how to keep themselves safe too.

WHAT WE COVER?

For younger years including Nursery and KS1 we spend about 30 mins covering:

1. Asking who out of the children has dogs or are nervous of dogs
2. Showing off some tricks training to help the children feel more at ease with our dogs
3. Going over the importance of asking to stroke someone's dog instead of just touching them
4. Discuss the reasons why some dogs may not want to be stroked
5. Introducing the 3 second rule for stroking new dogs and why we do this with new dogs
6. Discuss places dogs like to be touched and places not to touch dogs we don't know
7. Split the children into 2-3 groups with the nervous children in one group together
8. Give the children a chance to stroke the dogs we bring, we swap groups during this time so they get to meet all of the dogs
9. Discuss some rules in the house like not touching dogs if they are on their bed
10. Model how to give a dog a treat and pick a few students to feed one of the dogs a treat and show everyone how to do it safely
11. Answer any questions the children may have on what we have covered



WHAT WE COVER?

For KS2 we spend about 40 mins covering:

1. Asking who out of the children has dogs or are nervous of dogs
2. Showing off some tricks training to help the children feel more at ease with our dogs
3. Going over the importance of asking to stroke someone's dog instead of just touching them
4. Discuss the reasons why some dogs may not want to be stroked
5. Introducing the 3 second rule for stroking new dogs and why we do this with new dogs
6. Discuss places dogs like to be touched and places not to touch dogs we don't know
7. Split the children into 2-3 groups with the nervous children in one group together
8. Give the children a chance to stroke the dogs we bring, we swap groups during this time so they get to meet all of the dogs
9. Discuss some rules in the house like not touching dogs if they are on their bed
10. Model how to give a dog a treat and pick a few students to feed one of the dogs a treat and show everyone how to do it safely
11. Teach the children how to safely walk a dog with help from our trainers
12. Answer any questions the children may have on what we have covered



THE FINER DETAILS

Due to the popularity of these sessions since we started advertising them, we have had to bring in a small charge to cover our teams cost of time during these sessions.

For these sessions we bring 2 members of staff with 2-3 dogs for the children to meet and get to spend time with.

The cost of these sessions is £30 an hour, which covers the basic hourly wage of our two team members. We are not looking to make money on these visits, we just want to help educate and keep children (and dog's!) safer!



If you have any questions or would like to find out more, please contact a member of our team who will be happy to assist!