

Sunny Dog Place

310-325-0070

Trainers Corner Ask Jindo



Dogs aren't kid toys!

Jindo is a rescue dog adopted by trainer, Suzanne Mackay. Together they help other dogs and their owners achieve a more balanced and enjoyable relationship.

Dear Jindo -

Some friends of my owners came to visit with their kids the other day. Boy were they the wild bunch. I'm not around kids much and really didn't like the kids running around, putting their hands in my face and getting in 'my space'. My owners finally let me go hide in another room until they left. I'm just not used to kids, and I heard my owners making plans to see the kids again. Help, I don't like being a kid's toy.

Signed, Rufus the Terrier.

Dear Rufus -

I can understand how being near kids can be stressful, especially when you aren't used to them. Here are some safety rules that you can share with your owners. If your owners introduce you properly, you all can be safe & have fun.

RULE #1: Kids will be kids and often do things that are annoying or unsafe in regards to a dog. NEVER leave any child under 12 unattended or unsupervised (this means keeping visual contact with the dog and child at all times) with ANY dog – not even your own - not even for a minute. Accidents can happen in a split second.

RULE #2: Teach your children to ask the owner of the dog, if the dog is friendly and can they pet the dog. NEVER allow your child to approach ANY dog without the permission of the dog's owner. Teach your children to wait for the owner to say yes or no, some dogs are not used to children.

RULE #3: Teach your child to move slowly and NOT RUN or SCREAM when around dogs they are not extremely familiar with. Children like to run and play and move in a way that can frighten a dog. If children are going to visit, and your dog isn't familiar with them, first introduce the dog on leash then after the initial greeting, separate the dog from strangers. When things quiet down, bring the dog back in on leash and have him quietly greet everyone again.

RULE #4: Teach your child to read dog body language. A wagging tail does NOT always indicate that a dog is friendly so watch all the body language and remember, a dog who pulls away, cowers, growls, is stiff or has 'hard eye' is very likely to bite if touched. Additionally, do not allow new people/children to hug or roughhouse your dog.

RULE #5: Proper Introductions- this is your responsibility as a dog owner. Your dog should meet new people, including children, on leash. Ask the dog to sit and have people call the dog over if they wish to meet your dog. If your dog wants to go visit, then walk the dog over. If not, then don't push it. Allow the dog to warm up to new people at his own pace.

For more tips on how to help your dogs safely interact with kids, give us a call!

Sunny Dog Place

(310) 325-0070

25024 Broadwell Ave. Harbor City (near Palos Verdes, Torrance, Redondo Beach)

(310) 325-1300

www.sunnydogplace.com

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