



# Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Council Reaches Out

## Intended Audience:

- Students, Grades K- 4
  - Increase knowledge and depth of conversation with the grade level

## Lesson Objectives:

Participants will learn about...

- Dog's body language
- How to respond to a threatening dog
- How to play with their own dog
- How to interact with someone else's dog
- Dog sports/training

**Time:** This is curriculum for multiple lessons, so topics may be chosen by time restraints of presentations

## Equipment and supplies:

- Therapy certified animal(s)
- Dog behavior posters
- School permission

## Do Ahead:

- Review lesson
- Gather supplies
- Gain permission from the school and the instructor
- Ohio 4-H PetPALS training and certification
- Research to understand

## Dog Safety and Bite Prevention Presentation

### BACKGROUND

According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, more than 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year in the United States and dog bite claims were 1/3 of all homeowner's liability claims in 2011. Among child dog bite victims, 37% are between the ages of 5 and 9. With over 70 million dogs in the US and a \$60 billion Companion Animal industry projected to grow, something must be done to reduce these dog bite numbers!

### WHAT TO DO

#### Activity:

- Dog Safety
  - Properly Pet Dog
    - Offer the fist to the dog, then allow to smell and touch the shoulder first
      - Do no lean over the dog—You can offer the visual by leaning over the audience to make them feel the discomfort
  - Do Not Hug
    - Give them a situation that is applicable to their lives. For example, it is okay if my grandma gives me a hug, but it would not be okay for my grandma to hug you because she is a stranger
  - Dog Body Language
    - Refer to the poster (handout). The dog in the green is okay to pet, however, the dogs in the red have risk factors that are present. Depending on how much time is available, you may go through every picture or select a few to discuss why.



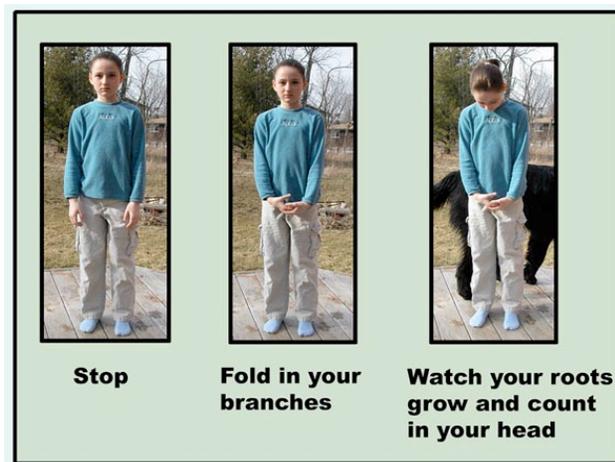
### Sources:

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- Miller, Lucinda B., Dr. "Ohio 4-H Youth Development." *PetPALS Ohio 4-H PetPALS | Ohio 4-H Youth Development*. N.p., n.d. Web.
- "Service Animals and Emotional Support Animals." *ADA National Network*. N.p., 01 Nov. 2017. Web.

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- Dog Safety Continued
  - Be a Tree
    - If a dog in the “red zone” is around, then you must be a tree. This means that you put your hands by your sides (this is so the dog will not jump on you), your chin down (to avoid eye contact and seem less threatening), remain quiet (you do not want to appear as a “squeaky toy”), close your eyes (eye contact is threatening), and remain still (you do not want to run and seem like a squirrel to chase).



- Be a Rock
  - If the dog is still in the “red zone” and knocks you to the ground, you will want to get into a classic tornado drill position; the body curled up in a ball to protect the internal vital organs, hands over the back of the neck, and remain calm.
- Define Therapy Dogs
  - These dogs are responsible to provide psychological or physiological therapy to individuals, other than their handlers. The handlers are usually their owners. These dogs have even temperaments, are friendly, and have easy-going personalities. Typically, they visit various places including schools, hospitals, and events.

- Therapy Dog testing
  - Canine Good Citizen Testing
    - Test Items
      - Accepting a friendly stranger
      - Sitting politely for petting
      - Appearance and grooming
      - Out for a walk
      - Walking through a crowd
      - Sit and down on command and stay in place
      - Come when called
      - Reaction to another dog
      - Reaction to distraction
      - Supervised Separation
  - PetPALS (People and Animals Linking Successfully)
    - This incorporates all species and takes 4-Hers, that have been certified, to schools, nursing homes, and events with their therapy certified animals that have passed the Socialized PetPALS Test and/or the Canine Good Citizen Testing
- Define Service Dogs
  - They are individually trained to perform tasks and do work that assist their handlers' disabilities. They, the handler and dog, work as part of a team to ensure safety and independence, which their disabilities could otherwise limit.
  - Do not pet Service Dogs, however, you can pet therapy dogs.
- Define Emotional Support Animals
  - These animals (not limited to dogs) are not required to undergo specialized training. Their primary roles are to provide their disabled owners with emotional comfort.
  - While owners of emotional support animals do not have the right to be accompanied by these animals in establishments that do not permit pets, they do allow for disabled owners of emotional support animals to reside in housing that has a "No Pets" policy, as a reasonable accommodation.
    - Service dogs are also allowed to live in this housing, but not therapy dogs.
- Choosing a Dog
  - Different work and dog sports require different skills that need to be trained. For example, Labrador retrievers were bred to jump off of boats in Canada to retrieve fish nets. These are sporting dogs that have a lot of energy and require a job. One must consider the goals the owner has for the dog, before choosing a breed.
    - If the dog is not given a job, then that is when the behavioral problems arise
- Dog Sports
  - Nose work
  - Search and Rescue
  - Flyball
  - Dock Diving
  - Agility
  - Obedience
  - Showmanship
  - Rally
  - Therapy work

- Positive Training
  - Above all, have a fun and positive experience with your dog. Do not harm the dog in any way. Set the criteria at a level that is challenging, but reachable. You want the dog to be challenged, but successful. Also, you can think about it as a teacher giving a test. They would not test their students on the material unless they would have taught it.
    - Reinforces
      - Tactile
      - Voice
      - Food
      - Toys/ Play
- Show off!
  - Allow time for the students to pet the therapy animal and time to show off tricks.

**Reflect:**

**TALK IT OVER**

- Questions?
  - It is important to ask if there are any questions. It is okay if you do not know the answer and refer them to someone else.

**How to get into schools and events:**

- Reach out to school and offer them a free 45 minuet dog safety and bite prevention presentation
- Discuss high number of dog bite victims and the age group of which they fall
- Be sure to say that this is a “therapy dog program.” Most organizations charge for such visits, and Ohio 4-H offers it for free
- Network! Use the contacts that one has within their own school district to start there... The word spreads by itself, and schools from all over Ohio will want to partake in the fun, free, and educational program
- Reinforce that this is a peer to peer taught program with 4-Hers, ages 8-18, teaching the curriculum
  - This offers a chance for youth to make connections and find positive role models (protective factor)

**Risk Factors:**

This program works with students who have multiple risk factors, due to the students being all over the state of Ohio, everything is seen. Some may include:

- Substance abuse
  - Peer pressure
  - Mental illness
  - Emotional. Physical, and sexual abuse
  - Trauma
  - Etc
- Note: Working with animals there are always risks, and the behavior of the animal and students must be monitored at all times

**Protective Factors:**

It is encouraged to see the same group of youth multiple times to discuss information at a more in-depth level. This will develop the relationship between the students and presenter.

Working with animals also lowers stress levels, amongst many other health benefits.

# Dogs Don't Bite "Out of the Blue."

Many bites can be prevented if people learn to read a dog's body language.



This dog's whole body is wagging calmly and he is panting. He is happy to see you.



He is not yawning because he is tired. He is anxious and he hopes you will leave him alone.



Her tail is high, her body is stiff and her mouth is closed. "I'm warning you. Back off!"



A tail tucked in, even if wagging a bit, means a very worried dog. "Please stay away from me."



The tongue flick and the slow, stiff tail wag tell you this dog is very unsure. "Go away."



This dog is turning her head away in order to avoid conflict. She doesn't want to be bothered.



The half-moon eye and the closed mouth tell you this dog is uncomfortable. "Leave me alone!"



The "freeze and stare" is a very dangerous sign! This dog will bite if you persist.



For more information about dog bite prevention, visit [www.doggonesafe.com](http://www.doggonesafe.com).

