

Kids and Dogs

Dogs and children are often thought to be naturals together. We see dogs in Disney movies being loving and loyal to their young charges, often times saving them from disaster. But that's the movies! All those canines are highly trained actors that took a great deal of time to develop certain skills. The real truth be known, the most bitten members in American society are children under the age of 12. More often then not, they are bitten by the family pet or by a familiar dog (such as Grandma's or their friend's animal). You can stack the cards in your favor so you can have that wonderful pet. But you need to understand that success of your dog with your children depends on several factors.

Keys To Success:

First, Your Dog's Genetics.

These are the unchangeable ingrained responses to the world surrounding them. There is nothing you can do to change them. Hopefully, you have selected a breed whose temperament is suited to living in a family situation. Not all breeds of dogs are good with children, especially small children. Take time to research the breed, but keep in mind, they are individuals as well. Just because you bought a Golden Retriever does not mean that the particular puppy or adult you selected is going to live up to the famous "Good Family Pet Seal of Approval". Taking the time to select an appropriate individual for your family situation is one of the keys to having a successful "marriage" of kids to dogs.

Second, The Dog's Past Experiences With Children.

If your dog has had previous experiences with kids that were pleasurable, then chances are he will enjoy their company. But if he has had several unpleasant, painful, or frightening situations occur with children, then he is probably going to be apprehensive around them, possibly to the point of being aggressive.

Third, Well-Socialized Pets Take Stressful and Unusual Situations In Strides.

Households with kids are noisy, unpredictable, busy and therefore, stressful. Animals who have received lots of positive socialization at an early age will be much less fearful and less likely to react to family life.

LAST AND MOST IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF YOUR CHILD/DOG RELATIONSHIP IS YOUR STRICT PARENTAL SUPERVISION AND GUIDANCE FOR BOTH YOUR DOG AND YOUR CHILDREN.

Carry, a seven year old Labrador retriever, had bitten 19 month old Jason in the shoulder. The little boy needed over 30 stitches, and as he was being treated at the hospital, Carry was taken to be euthanized. When the veterinary technician was about to remove the body from the table, she noticed something in the dog's ear. It was a pencil stub that had penetrated Carry's ear drum.

SUPERVISE YOUR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES!

