



# Australian Veterinary Association's Pets & People Education Program

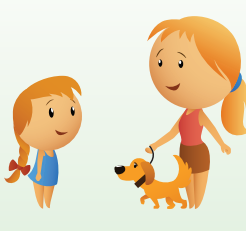
## AVA PetPEP Safety Messages

Teaching children about **SAFETY AROUND DOGS** is an integral part of AVA PetPEP School Visit, however we need to ensure that the messages being presented are consistent and in line with the AVA PetPEP messages. Much research has gone into the best approach to take when presenting these safety messages to children. Representatives at AVA PetPEP School Visits must use the following procedure when speaking to children about being safe around dogs.

### Meeting a new dog, always ...



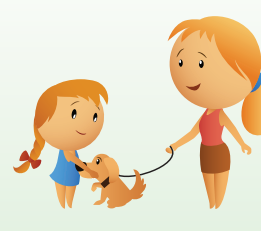
**Check** with your parent or guardian before meeting new people or dogs.



**Ask** the owner before you pat a dog.



**Meet** a dog by letting it come and sniff you.



**Pat** a dog gently on the shoulder.

### Dealing with strange dogs (dogs that have no owner with them)

Sometimes in the park or in the school yard you might see a dog without its owner. You should not go near these dogs. If the dog comes towards you the two things you need to do are:

**1**

#### **STAND STILL**

Stand very still and quiet "like a post" with your hands by your side and curl up your fingers.

**2**

#### **DON'T STARE**

Don't look straight at the dog – even if it smells you.

The strange dog will think that you are boring and will hopefully go away.

To help us maintain consistency please ensure these procedures are delivered at PetPEP School Visits. Presenting other procedures may be confusing for children and may not be keeping with safest procedures for children to interact with dogs.



# Australian Veterinary Association's Pets & People Education Program

## AVA PetPEP Safety Messages

In an effort to keep our messages simple (particularly for younger children) the following topics would generally not be covered during a 20-minute AVA PetPEP presentation. This information may however be useful if children ask questions about safe behaviour around dogs.

### If knocked down by an unknown dog

1

#### ROCK

Curl up like a rock on the ground.  
Look towards the ground.

2

#### ARMS

Use your arms  
to cover your head.

3

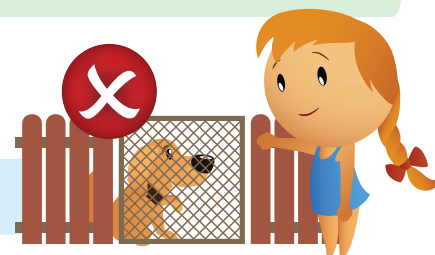
#### BE STILL

Try to stay as still and quiet  
as possible.

### Avoiding dog bites



Don't enter a strange dog's yard without the owner being present.



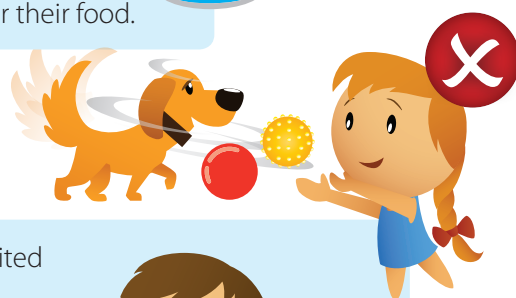
Don't grab or cuddle a dog around the neck, as this can frighten it.



Leave dogs alone when they are eating or near their food.



Stay away from a sleeping dog



Take care not to get dogs too excited  
when playing with them

Keep away from a litter of puppies

