



# Focus on...

## Keeping children safe around dogs

In 2023 there were 1,157 dog attacks reported to Lancashire constabulary, this is a rise of 22% from 2022 and in the UK last year over 1,700 children were admitted to hospital with dog bites.

We often underestimate the likelihood of our own dog biting, but 91% of bites to children happen at home with a dog they know.

Some children love dogs, others are wary and some are petrified. It is important that we as adults are responsible dog owners, knowledgeable about the breed, can read and understand the dog's body language and understand the potential dangers of having dogs around children. No matter how long you have had your dog, how 'good' it is with children and how much you might trust your dog, any dog can snap at any time!

### **Children should NEVER EVER be left alone with a dog**

A child might think they are just playing, climbing on the dog's back or playing with its ears or tail but all it takes is for the dog to nip or bite and this could cause serious injury or even death.

Of course, it's great having a family dog and they can be a great source of fun, comfort and support for adults and children alike, however we must be mindful of the dangers too.

There is lots of information and fact sheets available on the Child Accident Prevention Trust website [Dogs and Children | Top tips to keep them safe and happy together \(capt.org.uk\)](https://www.capt.org.uk)

The Dogs Trust run free regular masterclasses online around dog safety [Dogs and children: living happily together | Dogs Trust](https://www.dogs-trust.org.uk)

The RSPCA have some great tips – six golden rules for keeping children safe around dogs [Keeping Children Safe and Dogs Happy | RSPCA- RSPCA- rspca.org.uk](https://www.rspca.org.uk)

