

We're going to talk a little bit about animals today - especially dogs?

There are 2 important things we are going to learn today:

1. Caring for your dog
2. Dog-safety

What are the important things about caring for your dog? Food, Water, Training, Grooming & Health

1. Food & Water - feeding the proper food for your animal and keeping them from eating too much. A dog should always have plenty of fresh water.
 - * Water is very important here in Florida where it gets so hot.
 - * One very bad food for dogs is chocolate
2. Training - teaching them NO, SIT & STAY can keep them safe. It is also good to teach LEAVE IT or DROP IT.
 - * If a dog knows to STAY, it will not stray away from you into harms way.
 - * If a dog knows LEAVE IT or DROP IT, if it starts to eat something that is bad for it, you will be able to take it away from it before it makes them sick.
 - * Different collars for training. Also talk about treat motivation.
3. Grooming - baths as needed and nail clippings and hair cuts.
 - * Dogs don't need baths every day or even every week. Because of the way a dogs coat is too many baths can irritate their skin. Give your dogs a bath if they smell, or if they have gotten into something.
 - * Keep their nails short so that they don't get snagged on things.
 - * Depending on the type of dog you have, you may need to trim the fur around the eyes or ears to help keep them clean.
4. Health - at least **one** trip to the doctor (vet) a year.
 - * For a check-up and shots.
 - * AND Heartworm preventative & flea preventative

All of these are important because if a dog is not healthy, it won't be happy. If it is not happy it could become mean and that is what we are going to talk about next.

SNACK BREAK

Preparing for dog safety..... do this immediately after break and then let Ron teach the dog safety.

Did you know that all animals can talk?

They may not talk with words, but they talk with **sounds** and **body language**.

Can one of you tell me what **body language** is?

What about the **sounds** that a dog might make if it's mad? (growling) hurt? (whining) sad? (whining) alarmed? (barking).

Now - I am going to let Ron take over and he is going to talk about dog safety and some tips for you to remember that may some day keep you from being bitten.

Use the cards to teach the dog safety.....

- * NEVER try to pet a stray dog
- * NEVER touch a dog who is eating
- * ALWAYS ask if you can pet someone else's dog
- * NEVER run from a dog

IF A DOG COMES UP TO YOU IN A MEAN WAY OR A FRIENDLY WAY:

Act like a tree with your arms at your side and stare up at the sky until the dog leaves.

NEVER stare into the dogs eyes.

IF THE DOG ACTUALLY ATTACKS YOU:

Fall to the ground like a log ON YOUR STOMACH and cover your ears and face with your arms and hands