



Hi! It's me Diggity!

These are my friends Ben, his brother Austin and cousin Sara Jane.

I was sad when Ben was bit by a dog so I'm going to teach Ben and his friends to get dog smart. Come along with us so you can get dog smart too and find out the special surprise for Ben! Arf!



When I was a puppy, my owner introduced me to lots of children. So I love kids! I also went to doggy training school where I learned how to behave around all kinds of different people and dogs too. Puppies love to bite and nibble while playing and teething. When puppies nibble too hard, you need to let them know by shouting "Ouch!" Puppies will learn to keep their nibbles gentle if you let them know.



So many dogs don't get to play with kids, so they may be afraid of you. And some dogs are not comfortable around people outside of their own families. That's why you need to be dog smart! When dogs are afraid, they may either run away or bite. Benjamin, I know how much you love dogs but rule number 1, never go up to a dog who is fenced in, or left alone on a chain or leash even if you might know the dog.



Sara Jane wants to see the cute dog in the car but that's not a good idea. Rule number 2, never go up to a dog inside a car. They are more likely to bite because they are alone in a strange place and locked inside. Remember what a dog might do if he feels afraid and can not run away? Bite! That's right! Now you're getting dog smart!



"Here comes a cute dog with his owner. Sara Jane wants to pet him! Wait! we should ask if it is ok to pet the dog and also ask if his dog is used to being around children." Ben is right. Not all dog owners are aware that if their dogs are not socialized with children, they can easily be afraid of them and bite.



If you have permission to pet the dog, slowly move your hand upward in a fist position to let the dog sniff the back of your hand. Then pet the sides of the dog's head and always stay an arm's length away. Great job Ben! Ben knows a dog may feel comfortable while his owner is there, but when left alone the dog might feel afraid. That's what happened to Ben. The owner thought his dog liked him because he looked happy when Ben was petting him but when the owner tied his dog to a fence and left him alone with the dog, the dog bit Ben. Rule number 3, never stay alone with any dog. An adult should always be with you. Ruff!



We stop to see Aunt Martha. She has a new dog named Spats. We need to be cautious until Aunt Martha helps us get to know her dog. She lets us give Spats some doggy treats. Rule number 4, never feed the dog directly into his mouth. Toss the treat to the dog. Giving treats to a dog can be a great way for children to win a dogs friendship and respect quickly. Just be sure an adult is there to help you.



Ruh! Roh! Oh No! Ryan and his cousin Will are playing rough and Ryan's dog thinks that Will is trying to hurt him. Rule number 5, never play rough around a dog especially when visiting friends.
Dogs can be very protective of their families. Rule number 6, never jump on a dog or pull his ears or tail. And remember to keep the noise level down. Dogs have sensitive ears!



Ruh Roh! Rule number 7, never tease a dog. It can make a dog angry. Rule number 8, never pet a dog that is playing with a toy. Dogs can be protective of toys and might think that you are trying to take it.



Roh, no! Rule number 9, always leave mother animals and their babies alone. Mothers are protective of babies, Rup! Rule number 10, never sneak up on a dog that's eating. Some dogs are protective of their food and Rule number 11, never sneak upon a sleeping dog because the dog might get scared and bite.



Ruh Roh! Rule number 12, never go near a dog who is angry or afraid. An angry dog may try to make himself look big. His ears will stand up, the fur on his back will stand on end, and his tail will be straight up and may or may not be wagging. When a dog is afraid, he may shrink to the ground, put his tail between his legs and fold his ears back.



Here comes a stray dog. Rule number 13, when you see a dog on the loose, go inside and have someone call the police. Rule number 14, never make eye contact with a stray dog. Rule number 15, if the dog approaches, stand still like a tree with your hands by your sides and wait for the dog to go away. Rule number 16, if a dog knocks you over, roll into a ball, cover your face and ears and stay still and quiet until the dog goes away. Rule number 17, never try to outrun a dog. Dogs like to chase things. Remember to always still like a tree until the dog goes away.



**Wow! You have learned a lot about dog safety.
Now that you are dog smart it is time for Ben's
big surprise! Rarf, Rarf, Rarf!
Woof! Woof! Woof!**



Suprise!!! Here's Bens mom and dad with a new member of the family! I know Ben, Austin and Sara Jane will have fun with the new puppy. And I know they'll be safe around dogs because now they are dog smart! ArF, arF, arrrrrrrrrF!