



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League.
Locations at Hobart, Devonport, & Burnie.

Post Office Box 7
Lindisfarne TAS 7015

www.dogshomesoftas.com.au

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Canine Connections ~ Babies and Dogs



A new baby is a big adjustment, even for the family dog.

It is important for household harmony and safety to ensure that the arrival of a new baby doesn't create a negative association for your dog.

- If adjustments to the dog's routine are likely, phase them in gradually before the baby comes home. For example, the amount of time spent with the dog, where the dog will be fed, where the dog will sleep – if these arrangements are to change, make the changes prior to the birth of the baby.
- Your dog should get used to the sound and smell of your baby before you bring the baby home. A tape of a baby's cry will help desensitise your dog to this sound. Start by playing it softly at first, gradually increasing the volume if your dog is coping with the sound. If not, go back to playing it softly.
- While the baby is still in hospital, bring home a blanket and items of clothing that smell of the baby and allow the dog to sniff them. Reward the dog with a food treat at this time to create a positive association with 'baby'.
- Interaction between you and your dog should not be restricted to times when the baby is asleep. Rewarding your dog with praise or food when the baby is in its presence will create positive associations for the dog.
- Shouting at the dog or locking it outside will create a negative association for the dog. For safety, use a door barrier across the baby's room to prevent the dog entering unnoticed.

Burnie Dogs' Home

**170 Stowport Rd.,
Burnie TAS 7320**

Ph: (03) 6431 6199

Devonport Dogs' Home

**Spreyton Park Racecourse
Devonport TAS 7310**

Ph: (03) 6427 2178

Hobart Dogs' Home

**101 Scotts Rd.,
Risdon Vale TAS 7016**

Ph: (03) 6243 5177

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