



# 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](http://www.dogshomesoftas.com.au)

*Love this dogshome*

## Caring for Dogs~ Maintaining Health & Wellbeing

### Dogs and Kids

*Promoting the special bond  
between children and dogs*



#### What dogs can do for kids

A dog in the family is a wonderful source of companionship and fun.

Studies have revealed that companion animals can positively influence child development. Children with dogs show improved social competence and self-esteem compared to those without.

Children can learn how to care, learn about responsibility, gentle handling, animal behaviour and death by living with a dog. Research has found that dog-guardians are fitter, healthier and less stressed.

“It’s a good thing for the kids to learn to care for something other than themselves...”

[www.petnet.com.au](http://www.petnet.com.au)

A dog is like a best friend. They make us laugh, are good company, and fun to have around.

So in return, we need to look after them by keeping them safe, happy and healthy.

#### What kids can do for their dogs

- Read books about what dogs need to be happy and healthy.
- Aim to be the best dog-guardian that they can possibly be
- Learn about dog behaviour
- Learn about interpreting dog body language signals
- Learn to understand and respect dog’s needs
- Behave sensibly and appropriately around their dog
- Play gently and never tease their dog.
- Exercise and play with their dog everyday.
- Include their dog as part of the family
- Keep their dog safely on a lead when out of the yard
- Leave the dog alone when it is eating, sleeping or in need of sometime-out
- Learn that being a responsible dog owner is a long term commitment, dogs are not toys to be discarded when the novelty has worn off.

## What parents can do for their kids

- Teach your child about the gentle care of animals
- Teach your child not to hurt, tease or interact excitedly or roughly with dogs
- Teach your child to respect dogs' needs - they are living & feeling creatures, not toys
- Create secure areas for your dog to have some time-out away from the kids if required
- Supervise your children around dogs - never leave a child under seven years of age unattended with any dog
- Model kind and sensible behaviour with your dog in a manner that children can observe and copy
- Discuss dog body language with your child - identify friendly dog, frightened dog and angry dog signals

The Delta Dog Safe Program provides a guide to children on safe interaction with man's best friend. Ask your child's teacher about booking a Delta Dog Safe session for their class (Kinder to Gr 3), or phone 62487661 for more details.

## Safety Tips for Kids

- Stay away from a dog while it's eating - it might think you are going to steal it's food
- Stay away from a dog while it's sleeping- dogs get a fright if they are woken up suddenly
- Dogs usually don't like being grabbed around the neck —it can frighten them or make them angry
- Stay away from a dog who is very old, sick or injured— these dogs need to be left alone to rest quietly
- Having a dog is like having a best friend— so don't tease, hurt or frighten your dog. A dog who is frightened or angry might bite
- Stay away from a dog who has puppies - the mother dog might think you are going to take her puppies away
- Stand still so a strange dog won't chase you - dogs don't like sudden movements or loud noises
- Always ask a dog's owner if you can pat their dog— if the owner says yes, approach the dog slowly from the side
- Always ask the dog if it wants to be patted - curl up your fingers and slowly let the dog sniff your hand first
- Leave a dog alone if it growls, lifts its lips, backs away or raises the hair on its back

**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**

*The information in this brochure offers general advice on animal care and responsible dog guardianship. This information is offered in good faith however the TCDL cannot accept any responsibility for acts or omissions based on this advice.*