

# PUPPIES & CHILDREN

By following the guidelines listed below you can build a healthy and safe relationship between children and your puppy.

- Supervision – Your puppy should never be left alone with a child. Once you are confident that children and your puppy know how to behave around each other you can stay in the background but be ready to intervene if necessary.
- Body Language – Teach children about canine body language so they can learn to understand how a dog is feeling. A fun and interactive book to help both children and adults understand canine communication is *A Kid's Comprehensive Guide to Speaking Dog* by Niki Tudge.
- Interaction – Teach children how to properly interact with your puppy. Use a stuffed animal to practice petting and appropriate interaction ahead of time.
- Respect Space – Ensure your puppy has a safe retreat where she can go that is off limits to children. This space should include a bed, her food and water bowls and toys. Teach children that the puppy is “invisible” when she is in the space, so no interaction is allowed.
- Practice Quiet Puppy Talk – Teach children to talk to the puppy using an “inside voice.”
- Training & Care – Involve children in the daily care and training of your puppy. Even very young children can participate with the help of an adult.

