

## WHAT TO DO IF FIDO GETS TOO FRISKY?

When children are visiting or playing with a dog that has gotten too excited, it can be very hard for them to de-escalate the situation.

Here is a very effective and easy way for children to do when

-  Play is too rough
-  Dogs are giving them unwanted attention
-  Child is unsure what to do when a dog approaches them

### BE A TREE!!!



**STOP** and stand still.

**BRING IN YOUR HANDS:** dogs are attracted by the waving hands and like to grab onto them.

**ROOTS TO THE GROUND:** look down at your roots (feet). You avoid eye contact with the dog. Start counting to remain calm.

Dogs are likely to lose interest. You have become boring to them. When the dog stops its behaviour or walks away, the you can slowly come out of being a tree and walk calmly to an adult.

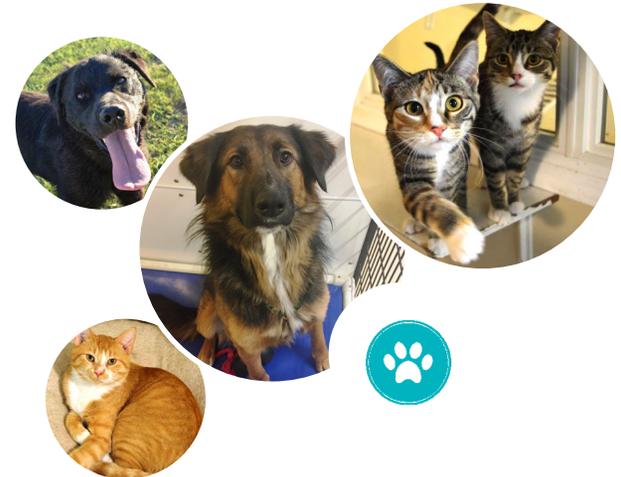
## WHAT DO I DO IF I FIND A STRAY ANIMAL?

-  Find an adult and tell them
-  Adults only approach the animal if they are showing signs they are happy
-  Look for a collar and name tag to contact the owners
-  If there is no collar, an adult can look in the their ear for a tattoo
-  The tattoo can be used by the veterinary clinic or city/town to find it's owner
-  If the animal is showing signs they are not happy, call your local animal control officer
-  A list of these officers can be found at [pvhsociety.ca](http://pvhsociety.ca)

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Morden MB R6M 0C3  
[www.pvhsociety.ca](http://www.pvhsociety.ca)

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# Pembina Valley Humane Society



## CHILDREN'S SAFE GUIDE TO CATS & DOGS



# Meeting

## New Animals

Most children love animals and when seeing a new dog or cat the first thing they want to do is run up and give them a great big hello!

As most owners know, every animal is different and can react in very different ways.

If you follow these 5 steps you'll be on your way to having a great animal experience!

1. WALK up to the owner
2. ASK permission to pet or visit the animal
3. Let the animal approach you and have a good smell
4. If the animal comes closer to you then you can pet them
5. Always start petting on the chest or neck. Never start with a pet on top of the head.



# Spot an

## Unhappy Animal

### SIGNS A DOG IS **NOT** HAPPY

-  Hair is raised on its back
-  Tail is straight
-  Teeth are bearing
-  Growling
-  Yawning
-  Pawing to keep a toy
-  Eyes are large
-  Ears are pulled back



### SIGNS A CAT IS **NOT** HAPPY

-  Backing away
-  Tail straight up and puffed out
-  Hissing
-  Ears pulled back
-  Swatting
-  Hair raised on back



# Animal

## Bites

Understanding why an animal bites can help these situations to be avoided. Dogs and cats enjoy mouthing as a means of playing. This should not be confused with "biting".

### **REASONS DOGS BITE**

-  They are protecting themselves or their property
-  They may be in pain
-  They may feel trapped
-  They may have been surprised by your actions
-  They may be very excited

### **REASONS CATS BITE**

-  They feel threatened
-  They do not trust who is petting them
-  They feel the need to attack out of surprise or alarm
-  Something has triggered their hunting instinct