

Below are a variety of resources our Violence Prevention and Humane Education coordinator personally recommends. We hope these resources will help as you continue learning how to best keep your kids and dogs safe while simultaneously encouraging positive relationships between them.

Websites:

spcaLA.com

Programs and Services: Violence Prevention and Humane Education

- At home activity guides (including shelter animal color sheets and creating enrichment for your pets)
- Online classes for youth (includes presentations for scouts or troops)
- Classroom presentations (including animal communication, and positive reinforcement and many more.)

Dog Training

- Free Behavior Helpline 562-216-2559 or email training@spcaLA.com
- Onsite obedience, agility, and K9 Fun Nose Work classes

Resources

- Training videos
- On demand webinar recordings (including Back to School: Enrichment and Games for kids and dogs)

familypaws.com

- Offers informational classes on keeping kids safe around the family dog, including a "Dogs and Storks" class for expecting parents
- List of trainers certified through them
- Help hotline 877-247-3407
- Coloring pages for children regarding dog body language
- Follow on social media on Facebook or Instagram

thefamilydog.com

- Peace, Love, Kids and Dogs training package
- Free helpful YouTube videos that are aimed at teaching children dog body language and safety
- "Stop the 77" campaign
- Body Language Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bstvG_SUzMo

doggiedrawings.net

- Free downloadable pages regarding dog body language and animal training.
- Book- Doggie Language: a Dog Lovers guide to understanding your best friend by Lili Chin (full of animations of useful dog body language).

thebluedog.org

- Headlines Facts and Figures - (Bite statistics, studies with citations)

Social Media Accounts and Hashtags:

spcaLA
Familypawsofficial
Thefamilydogusa
doggiedrawings
#enrichment
#enrichmentfordogs
#canineenrichment
#petsbehavingwell
#petsbehavingwellvideo

Books for Adults:

- *Living with Dog and Kids...Without Losing Your Mind* by Colleen Pelar
- *Hey Dog! Sniffs Are for Feet!* by Wendy Keefer
- *101 Dog Tricks, Kids Edition: Fun and Easy Activities, Games, and Crafts* by Kyra Sundance

Books for Kids:

- *Tails are Not For Pulling* by Elizabeth Verdick (for toddlers)
- *Pat Them Gently* by Melanie O'Brien (ages 1-4)
- *Don't Lick the Dog: Making Friends with Dogs* by Wendy Wahman (geared toward toddlers & preschoolers)
- *Hey Dog! Let's Talk!* by Wendy Keefe and Sarah Hobbs (for ages 4-7)
- *May I Pet Your Dog? The How-to Guide for Kids Meeting Dogs (and Dogs Meeting Kids)* by Stephanie Calmenson (Elementary)
- *How Full is Your Bucket? For Kids* by Tom Rath (Elementary)

Dog Training Concepts and Terminology

- **Positive Reinforcement**- adding a reward to increase a desired behavior. Rewards can be anything the dog enjoys; treats, toys, and affection are a few examples. We use Positive Reinforcement to train our dogs because it builds trust, the dogs enjoy learning because they are being rewarded, they are not afraid to try new things, and we allow them to have some choices.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYFcEgePdlo&feature=youtu.be>
- **Marker**- a word or sound used to tell the dog when exactly they did the correct behavior. It means "Yes, I like what you did", and it becomes a promise for a reward to follow. Markers should be single-syllable words such as "Yes" or "Good." We can also use a training tool known as a clicker to mark behaviors.
- **Release Word**- a word that tells the dog they can move out of the position from the previously asked cue.
- **Capturing**- waiting for the animal to perform the behavior and then marking and rewarding the behavior so the animal will repeat it. An easy way to remember this is capturing is like taking a photo - you capture a moment in time. You are not guiding or prompting the dog in any way, just patiently waiting. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftXml-HULIM>
- **Luring**- taking a treat to your dog's nose and moving it in such a way that his/her body follows into the desired position. An easy way to remember this is "guiding your dog." Another way to remember is that luring works like a magnet - where the treat goes, your dog goes.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiRC_zgJqsQ&feature=youtu.be
- **Shaping**- Training a dog to perform a behavior in small increments or stages rather than all at once. An easy way to remember shaping is "baby steps." Shaping can include a combination of both Luring and Capturing.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnqW7hZceaE>

Dog training behaviors recommended for adults to train in order to assist with the dogs interaction with children.

Full how-to videos for the following behaviors can be found at the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp9P6uSTd6hG1m_ytLtMbJMse5vtdlyPO

- **Hand Touch-** The dog's nose touches the person's hand. With practice, this cue can be very helpful for a variety of situations, such as:
 - Moving the dog without picking them up
 - Having the dog come to you
 - Gaining the dog's attention when distracted.
 - Exercise for the dog
 - Tricks
- **Sit for environmental cues** - The dog sits when seeing an object or something in the environment that signals to them to sit. This cue is very helpful. It assists with the dog offering the behavior so adults and children do not need to ask for a sit, the dog offers it on their own.
 - Sit for Food Bowl
 - Sit for Door
 - Sit for Leash
 - Sit for Toy
- **Drop it** - The dog is told the cue and lets go of the item. With practice, this cue can be very helpful for a variety of situations, such as:
 - The dog has something they should not have
 - The dog is playing with a toy and you need to take it
- **Leave it** - The dog is told the cue and ignores the item. This cue is used for things the dog should not have. With practice, this cue can be very helpful for a variety of situations, such as:
 - Food that would be dangerous to the dog is dropped on the floor You come across something on your walk that you do not want your dog to touch
 - Your dog is distracted by another dog, animal or person (note: overcoming this level of distraction to perform the behavior requires A LOT of practice.)

Dog training recommended for children with adult supervision and guidance.

Example videos of children training, and games with dogs using positive reinforcement.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLp9P6uSTd6hH_Oh6HapyrOi6sGTJPQRHm

- **At Home Agility-** This activity is recommended for children 8 years and older. It can be adapted for younger children, based on their needs and abilities. Adult guidance and supervision is recommended. Agility is a dog sport that asks dogs to go over, through, and under different pieces of equipment. Basic agility equipment can be purchased online, and spcaLA offers a variety of agility classes if your family is interested in working with official agility equipment. As a pet owner, purchasing items can add up, so if you would like to try agility at home you can also try using your imagination with what you already have. Ensuring it is safe and practical, you can guide your dog over, through, and under many household items. This video gives a few examples of ways that you and your family can incorporate agility at home
 - Jumps
 - Weaving
 - Tunnels
- **Go to Bed-** This activity is recommended for children 8 years and older. It can be adapted for younger children, based on their needs and abilities. Adult guidance and supervision is always recommended. Teaching a dog to go to their bed is a great opportunity to give the dog a comfortable area to identify as their own. It is helpful to send our dogs to bed when we are eating, a guest is over, or we need more room on the floor to play with toys or games. It gives the dog a specific area to settle and relax while being out of the way. Having children learn to guide the dog onto the bed can help avoid shouting at the dog, and save time and energy (not to mention, give the dog a clear understanding of what is being asked of them). This video gives a few examples of how a child can guide a dog to their bed. Teaching the dog to stay on their bed comes with time. First, reward the dog for being on the bed for longer periods of time. The adult in the home should be responsible for incorporating the “stay” component.
- **Hand Touch-** This activity can be done with children of all ages, but the younger the child, the more assistance from an adult will be needed. Hand

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touch can be used to assist with moving our dogs from point A to point B, coming when called, and getting your dog's attention in distracting situations. Hand touch is a simple behavior the whole family can practice. This video gives examples of children of a variety of ages participating in this training process.

- Name Game-** This activity is recommended for children 5 years and older. It can be adapted for younger children, based on their needs and abilities. Adult guidance and supervision is always recommended. We all want our dogs to come to us when called, and this goes for everyone in the household. To ensure our dogs listen to everyone and not only the adults in the home, this is a fun exercise to have your children practice. Toss a treat away, call out the dog's name as soon as they eat the treat, and when they come back to you, place a treat on the floor in between your feet.
- Sit for Food Bowl-** This is a cue that the adults in the home should train prior to letting the children participate. Once the dog understands how to sit and wait for the food bowl, give the children an opportunity to be part of the training process. This activity should always be supervised because it involves the child interacting with the dog's food dish, which could be a resource worth guarding for the dog. This activity is recommended for children 5 years and older, with adult supervision. To avoid having younger children go near the dog's food dish, where a bite could potentially occur, practice different activities with your younger child. This video gives an example of a child lowering the food bowl to the floor as the dog waits for their release word to eat the food. Highly specific instructions are always important when working with children.
- Spin-** This activity is recommended for children 5 years and older. It can be adapted for younger children, based on their needs and abilities. Adult guidance and supervision is always recommended. Spin is a fun and relatively simple trick most dogs are able to do. This skill can be useful when bathing, drying, or brushing your dog. It can also just be for fun.
- Teaching Children How to Lure-** This activity is recommended for children 2 years and older. It can be adapted for younger children, based on their needs and abilities. Adult guidance and supervision is always recommended. Luring a dog is a great way to guide them into the area or position we would like. Teaching your children at an early age that they do not need to force the dog into any area or position is a great foundation for training and for their relationship. For younger children, consider using a barrier between the dog's mouth and the child's hand to prevent teeth grazing, nips, or any potentially

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negative experiences with the exercise. Luring with a spoon or making a trail of treats can show the dog where they are being asked to go without your child's hand having to make direct contact with the dog's mouth. With young children, adults should actively supervise and assist with all interactions with the dog. This video gives a few example of young children luring a dog with an adult's guidance.

- **Treat Toss-** This activity is recommended for children 2 years and older. For young children this should be a guided activity, with adult assistance. Want to get your dog some exercise? Toss treats or kibble, have them run and find the food and return for more. The older the child, the further away they can toss the treat, making it more of a workout for the dog. For younger children, this is a simple bonding activity were they can give treats without making contact with the dog. This can prevent teeth grazing/nips or other negative experiences when the dog reaches to eat the food.
- **Treats for Petting-** This activity is recommended for young children, under 5 years old. It is important to teach young children how to softly pet a dog. To do this, feed the dog treats while assisting the child in gently petting the dog with one hand. If available, have another adult feed so that one person can focus on the dog while the other focuses on the child. Feeding treats or food helps the dog focus on the adult while experiencing a positive interaction with the child.
- **Trade for Treat-** This is an interaction that children 8 years and older can try with adult supervision. This is an interaction to avoid the child taking things away from their dogs causing opportunities for the dog to guard. To avoid guarding behavior, toss a treat or a toy away from the dog. Once the dog is away, then the item can be picked up.