Keep dogs and children apart
**KEY MESSAGE**

Dogs and children should be kept apart unless closely supervised

**Getting started**
- Why do you think the parents have placed the dog outside while the little girl is playing inside?
- Do you think small children know how to behave around dogs?
- How might they hurt the dog without realising?
- What might the dog feel if a child cuddles it tightly or pulls its tail?
- If a dog is frightened what might it do to protect itself?

**Activities**
- Establish that all dogs can bite
- Discuss what part of the child’s body would be closest to the dog’s teeth?
- Discuss arrangements at home for keeping the dog and children apart

**Safety tip**
- When bringing a baby into a household where a dog lives, reward the dog with praise or food when the baby is present. This will teach the dog to associate the baby with positive experiences

**Did you know?**
- More Australian children are hospitalised from dog bites than car accidents

Links to card 43
All dogs can bite, always stay with children near dogs
KEY MESSAGE
Never leave your dog and young child (under 5 years) alone in the yard or the home together

Getting Started
■ Can you describe what is happening in this picture?
■ How is this mother helping her little girl to stay safe around dogs?

Activities
■ Discuss how it is natural for a dog to bite if it is frightened or hurt or to protect its food
■ Discuss how toddlers and young children do not know how to behave with pets so adults need to model the correct behaviour when young children are learning how to interact with dogs

Safety tip
■ Don’t allow your children to tease your dog or handle it roughly

Did you know?
■ Placing a dog on a chain does not make it safe as dogs on chains can feel trapped and frightened if approached or teased and can still bite
Train your dog to obey simple commands
Getting started
- Have you taught your dog to sit, stay, drop and come?
- Why it is important that every dog has basic training to sit, stay, drop and come?

Activities
- Discuss the three positive things shown in this picture; the dog is obeying a simple command, the mother is teaching her son how to behave around the dog and an adult is with the child and dog
- Find out about dog obedience classes in the local area and enrol

Safety tip
- If you treat pets well your children will learn how to do this

Did you know?
- Most children are bitten by dogs that they know, usually the family pet
Keep children away from feeding dogs
KEY MESSAGE
Keep children away from feeding dogs

Getting started
■ Can you think of times when dogs should be left alone?
■ What might the dog feel if approached at these times?
■ If a dog is frightened what might it do to protect itself?
  Reinforce that all dogs can bite
■ What might happen if your child went to your dog when it was feeding?

Activities
■ Talk about times when dogs should be left alone
  – when sleeping, eating, unwell, with pups, tied up etc
■ Discuss why it is important to keep children away from feeding dogs
■ Explore current feeding arrangements and discuss solutions if necessary

Safety tip
■ Children can safety watch their dog feeding through a window or glass door

Did you know?
■ The people at greatest risk from dog bites are children under five years, although many older children are bitten too

Links to card 44
Treat dogs and cats regularly for worms and fleas
**KEY MESSAGES**

**Treat dogs and cats regularly for worms and fleas**

### Getting started
- What do you know about worming your pets and treating them for fleas?
- Why is this important for your children as well as your pets?
- What could you do to help yourself remember when it is time to flea and worm your dog?

### Activities
- Discuss the importance of regular worming and flea treatment for dogs and cats
- Discuss how children could be harmed by worms and fleas from pets
- Develop a system such as stickers on the calendar to remind when pets are due for worm and flea treatments

### Safety tip
- Teach children to always wash their hands with soap and running water after handling any animals and especially before eating or drinking

### Did you know?
- Fleas and worms are not just a problem for your dog or cat. Humans can be bitten by fleas and some types of worms can be transferred to humans