

SUDDENLY IN CHARGE:

Animal and Pet Safety



Safety

It is important for all visitors of any home to remember that a dog/pet feels very connected to its family. Some dogs/pets may act differently when the adults (leaders) are not present. Always ask if the animal has any special needs or instructions.

Consider these tips when you're with younger children, and you're exploring or going for walks.

1. Children are never to be left alone with a dog even for a second.
2. Never bother animals when they're eating, sleeping, chewing on something, or in their special place.
3. If you are outside with the children, never allow them to interact with any dog or animal even if they know the animal, or the owner says it is OK.

4. If you are outside with the children and see a loose dog/animal in the distance, take the children back indoors or leave the area in a calm manner.
5. If a loose dog approaches, instruct the children to Be a Tree: stand still, fold their branches (hands folded in front), and watch their roots grow (look at their feet). The babysitter should be a tree as well. Stay still until the dog goes away or help comes. If the dog returns, resume being trees.
6. Never approach stray animals.
7. If a pet is in a cage, it should remain there until the responsible adults return home.
8. Never pet horses that are fenced up without an adult present.
9. Never chase animals.

Activity

Pet Rock

Go on an adventure and find some fist-size or small rocks with a smooth surface. You can wash them if you need to. Then use whatever you have on hand: paint, googly eyes, yarn, ribbon, chenille stem, etc. to make your pet rock. Use your imagination and have fun! It's an easy project, and these pets don't need food or baths — just love!



Snack

Cat Face

Makes 1 serving.

Ingredients: Round base (bagel, rice cake, sugar cookie), sticky base (strawberry cream cheese, frosting, hummus, peanut butter), 6 pretzel sticks, 3 raisins, 1 or 2 strawberries.

Directions: Spread sticky base on each round base. Decorate round base to look like a cat's face: the raisins will be the eyes and nose; the pretzels will be the cat's whiskers. Cut the strawberry into slices — these will act as the kitty's ears.

Wash your hands first!



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