

CHILDREN & PETS



1. PREPARATION

Install barriers to create pet-free and children-free zones. Baby gates (for dogs) or mounted flywire doors (for cats) are good safety devices

Ensure your pet is trained to understand basic commands – Sit, Stay, Drop.



2. INTRODUCTION

Familiarise your pet with things associated with the baby. Allow your pet to explore smells of your baby's clothes and baby lotions and powders and reward with positive reinforcement.

Respond to your pet's body language appropriately – if they are showing negative body language, stop and try again at another time.

⚠️ Allow the pet to approach mum and the newborn. Do not force the interaction as your pet may associate the baby with a negative experience.

3. PLAY

Always supervise your children when pets are around. Model and encourage appropriate play behaviours.

Teach children to always wash their hands after playing with pets.

⚠️ Do not let a child disrupt your pet's alone time. For example when they are sleeping, eating, injured or playing with their toys



4. MAINTENANCE

Ensure your pet is groomed and up-to-date with vaccinations and other treatment

⚠️ Minimise the risk of diseases by practising good hygiene. Mum-to-be or her helpers should wear gloves when handling pet litter and cleaning litter tray

⚠️ Keep the litter box and the pet's food in children-free zones so children do not have access to it.