



THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL DOG SAFETY PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE HILLS SHIRE COUNCIL DOG SAFETY PROGRAM?

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world. Most dog attacks involve children in 0-8 age range and a high number of these attacks occur in the home environment.

The Hills District has a high rate of dog ownership and Council encourages all residents to learn more about how children can interact safely with dogs.

Educating children and their families ensures the child-pet relationship is not only physically and emotionally rewarding but also a safe one as well. The program also allows children to become better prepared when dealing with dogs outside the home and throughout the community.

The Hills shire Council Dog Safety Program is available to all primary schools throughout the Hills LGA. It targets children from the 4-12 age range and teaches them how to live safely with dogs. The Hills Shire Council is dedicated to providing the community with relevant dog safety information and hopes that with this education program, we can prevent avoidable dog attacks.

WHO TEACHES THE PROGRAM?

The Hills Shire Council Community Safety Team provides qualified dog safety experts from who deliver presentations to children regarding dog safety in the home and the community.

These presentations are delivered using chat, role play and interactive activities that engage children to learn more about dog safety. All educators complete extensive mentoring and professional training and deliver a high quality presentation to children.

WHAT DO CHILDREN AND PARENTS LEARN IN THIS PROGRAM?

- when dogs should be left alone
- things we should not do to dogs
- how to tell if a dog is happy, scared or angry
- safe ways to approach a dog
- what to do if approached by an unknown or aggressive dog
- the importance of actively supervising your children's interactions with your pets
- basic dog behaviour

HOW MUCH DOES THE EDUCATION PROGRAM COST?

Primary schools in the Hills LGA can access the program free of charge.

HOW TO BOOK?

You can call and book a talk with a Council staff member **02 9843 0555** [Monday-Friday | 8:30am-4pm]

ALTERNATIVELY YOU CAN BOOK ONLINE:

www.thehills.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Dog Safety' in the search tab.