

DHK's Learn to Speak Dog Campaign

The Campaign

DHK's 'Learn to Speak Dog' Campaign is to encourage more children and adults to understand their dogs, especially their body language and calming signals, and from this know exactly what their dog is trying to say to them and how they are feeling. In turn we hope that this will help in a small way to help decrease dog bites to children.

Why the campaign?

Sadly dog bites to children are on the increase in the U.K., but the reality is all of them could be preventable. 77% of all dog bites to children are undertaken by the family dog or a friend's dog and almost all bites to children are facial. 50% of all dog bites are to children under the age of 12, with the child most likely to get bitten being those children under the age of 6. If children and adults understood more about what their dog was trying to tell them, our dogs would not bite - it is as simple as that! Lets all start being a voice for our dogs and help prevent dog bites from happening in the first place. The time has come for all of us to 'learn to speak dog' and help keep our dogs and children safe!

Why now - 2016?

Dogs Helping Kids has been providing interactive educational talks to schools and colleges with our Educational School Dogs for almost 15 years now (2016). In these talks we teach children how to approach a dog correctly, how to stroke a dog, how to read a dog's body language, how to be a responsible dog owner, how to prevent a dog bite (inside and outside), kind positive dog training and how to be a dog's best friend. We also provide half day workshops on 'Living in Harmony with the family dog' to all interested parties. This campaign is taking all of these important elements and providing the most salient points in an easy to understand interactive PowerPoint to teach children (and adults) how to understand what their dog is trying to tell them.



What other campaigns are available in this country?

There are loads of excellent campaigns on dog bites already available, being provided by some amazing dog organisations. If you have the time, please do take a look at the following amazing campaigns:-

- 'Stop the 77' – The Family Dog
- 'Put the camera down' – Dog Safety Education Executive
- 'Be a tree' – Doggone Safe
- 'Be Dog Smart' – The Dogs Trust
- 'Safe and Sound' – The Kennel Club



How are we undertaking this campaign?

With the help of all of our DHK School Dogs we will be providing these interactive talks to all children and teenagers where are dogs are currently working. For those schools or colleges interested in these talk's our highly qualified Educational School Dogs will come to you with their owner and help provide this 30 minute talk to your school or college. We will also be taking this campaign to the media to encourage more children and adults to learn to speak dog and how important it is to understand your best friend more and to help prevent dog bites from happening in the first place.



Join us and become a voice for our dogs – learn how to 'speak dog' and let's help keep both our children and our dogs safe.