

SAFETY WITH ANIMALS

LESSON 5: Grades K-3

HOW TO MEET A DOG

Show-Me Standards: Academic Goal: 1.5, 1.10, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2 & 4.7

Knowledge Goal: Communication: 1, 5 & 6; Science: 3; Health & Phys Ed: 4, 5 & 7

Objective: To teach students the safe way to meet a dog.

Materials:

- “Safety Circle” handout
- Writing utensils
- Two or more stuffed dogs
- Collars and leashes
- “Dog Bites Dos and Don’ts” handout

Method: Introduce this lesson by talking about meeting new people. What do we do when we meet a new person? Would it be okay to run up and hug someone you didn’t know? Absolutely not! First, make sure he or she is a safe person. An adult you trust may introduce you. Greet the person and shake hands.

There is also a right way to meet new animals. Should you run up and hug an animal you don’t know? Absolutely not! Today we’re going to learn the safe way to meet an animal.

1. Look for signs that a dog is safe:
 - He is friendly and calm. Remember body language.
 - He is wearing a collar and I.D. tag.
 - He is on a leash.
 - The owner is securely holding the leash.
2. Ask permission of the owner:
 - “May I pet your dog?”
 - If the owner says “no” the greeting is over!
3. Ask permission of the dog:
 - Walk slowly to the dog from the side.
 - Speak softly.
 - Stand still with a loose fist at your side slightly away from your body (palm down).
 - Let the dog come to you and sniff it.
 - Pet the dog gently on the back or sides. Never pet a new friend on the head or face.

Allow students to practice meeting a friend’s dog. Pair students. One uses a stuffed animal that is wearing a collar and leash and plays the owner. Another plays the friend. The dog and owner pretend to walk together and the friend meets them. Students should practice the above steps.

Call to Action: Invite a safe dog to visit the classroom. Be sure the pet is capable of being in this type of situation. Allow students to take turns meeting the dog.

Distribute a copy of the “Safety Circle” handout to each student. Help them remember a very important rule! As a final review of Safety with Animals, distribute a copy of the “Dog Bites Dos and Don’ts” handout to each student. Test their knowledge of safe and unsafe situations.

Web sites: For recommended animal-related web sites visit www.apamo.org and choose “Animal Issues” from the left-side menu, then choose “Links” from the top of the page. Or [click here](#) to launch your browser and link directly to the list.

Name _____

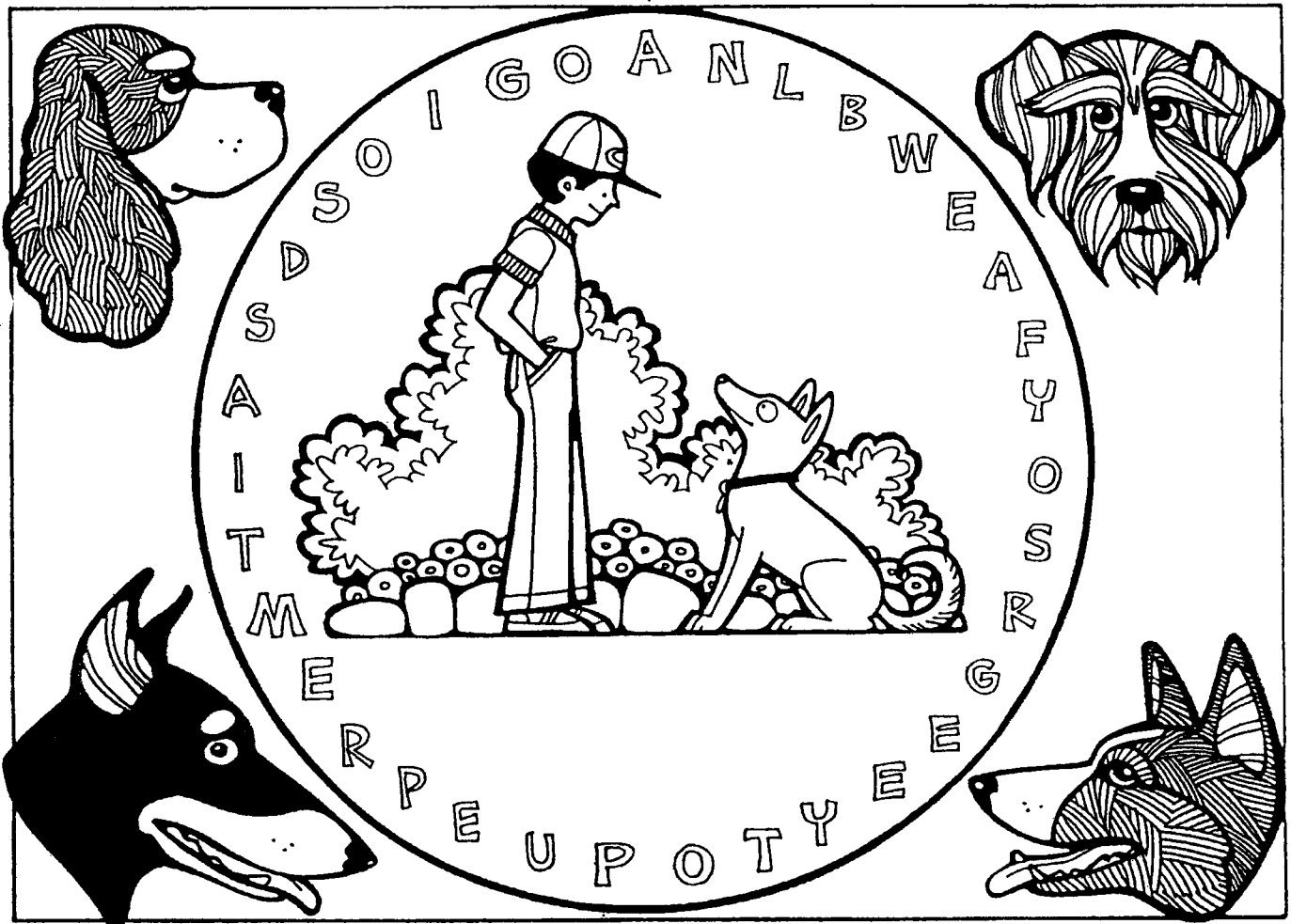
Safety Circle



Safety around dogs is important! To learn a very important dog safety rule, start at the arrow and write down every other letter on the lines below. Go all the way

around the circle twice, and then read the rule you have written down. I've done the first two letters to get you started.

A L _____
_____!



Always get permission before you pet a dog.

Sometimes dogs bite when they are protecting something. On the back, write at least five things that a dog might protect.

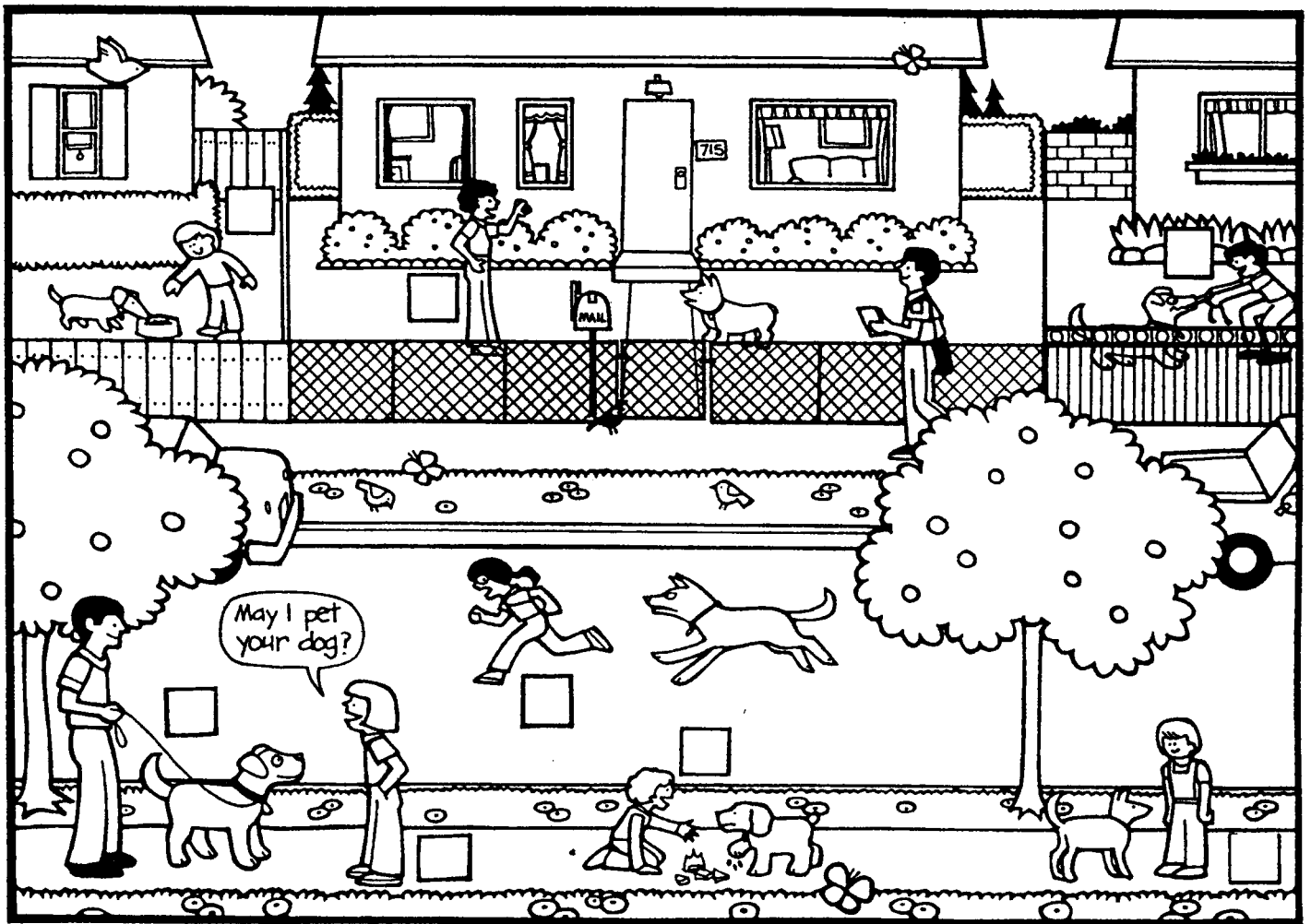
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Name _____

Dog Bite Dos and Don'ts




How can we prevent dog bites? By being responsible pet owners and behaving safely around dogs. Look at this picture. Write an S in the box next to each example of

someone behaving safely and responsibly with a dog. Write a U in the box next to each example that shows unsafe behavior around a dog.






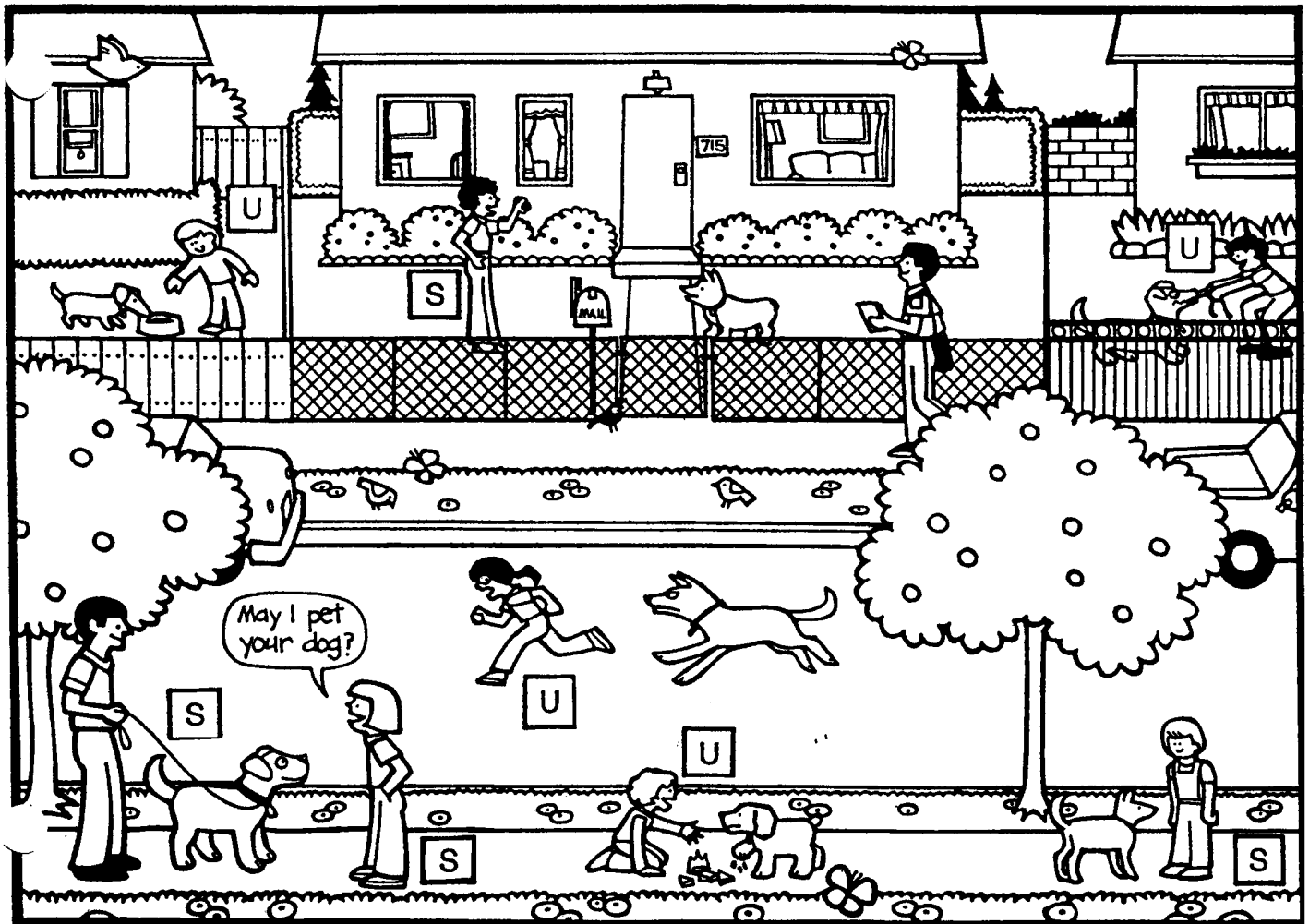
Answer Key: Dog Bite Dos and Don'ts

Safe, responsible behavior (S)

-  Man walking his dog on a leash. Always walk dogs on leashes, and never allow them to roam.
-  Girl asking, "May I pet your dog?" Always ask the owner's permission before petting a dog.
-  Boy standing still as dog approaches. Remember, if a stray dog approaches you, be like a tree. Place your hands at your sides, remain quiet, and stare straight ahead.
-  Woman in a fenced yard playing fetch with her dog. Always play gently with dogs; fetch is a fun, safe game. When you're not walking your dog, keep him indoors with you or in a fenced yard.

Unsafe behavior (U)

-  Boy approaching dog who's eating. Dogs protect their food. Stay away from dogs while they're eating.
-  Boy playing tug of war with dog. Never try to pull anything from a dog's mouth. Avoid games like tug of war, which teaches dogs to be aggressive. Always play gently with dogs.
-  Girl reaching out to injured dog. Dogs who are sick or hurt may bite. Stay away from injured dogs and tell an adult if you think a dog needs help.
-  Girl running away from dog. A dog's natural instinct is to chase prey. Never run away from a dog. Instead, stand still, like a tree. The dog will likely sniff you and walk away.



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