

As the baby grows...

- Are your pet's food and water dishes or litter box easily accessible to a curious crawler? If so, find a new place to put them.
- Children have more energy and some pets can take longer to grow accustomed to this. Always supervise their interactions.
- Do not allow your child to corner a pet, sleep in his crate, or take things from your pet.

Resources

- *There's a Baby in the House* by Mike Wombacher www.doggonegood.org
- *Your Dog and Your Baby: A Practical Guide* by Silvia Hartmann-Kent
- www.babysoundsforpets.com
- www.preparingfido.com
- *Preparing Your Pet for Baby's Arrival* www.aspca.org/



About AWA

Our Mission

AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering and promoting the importance of the human-animal bond and improving the role of the animals in the well-being of people.

We serve our community by:

- Saving thousands of homeless and abandoned animals each year.
- Humane Education activities for schools and youth groups, including our Summer Camp program.
- Providing low-cost spay/neuter surgery and veterinary care through our Pet Clinic and our Vets on Wheels program.

Hours of Operation

Adoption Center

Tuesday—Friday 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Wellness exams are available M-F by appt. Walk-in Vaccine Clinics are available Monday mornings, plus several Saturdays a month (check website.) Spay/neuter surgeries are M-F by appointment, which can be made online.



Preparing Your Pet for a New Baby

Helpful Tips and Resources



Preparing Your Pet Before Baby Arrives

- Set up the nursery months ahead. Pets are very sensitive to changes. You don't want your pet to associate a few sudden changes with the baby.
- Find an effective barrier for keeping pets from off-limits areas. Make sure each pet has a special place of their own.
- Overly dependent pets may try to compete with a baby for attention. Start building your dog's independence through obedience training.
- Have the smell of diapers, wipes and formula around the house three months before the baby comes home.
- Acclimate pets to baby sounds since strange noises can make a pet feel playful or nervous.
- Regularly praise your pet for good, calm behavior.

Preparing Your Pet When Baby Arrives

- Place treat jars around the house so that when you engage in baby activities you can offer your pet a treat so he will associate the baby with pleasant experiences.
- Let your dog sniff at the baby and their belongings. Hold the leash. Your pet may be interested or they may have little to do with the new family member. **Never let a child be alone with a dog unsupervised.**
- **Make sure you make time for just you and your pet.** When the baby is napping try to spend a moment with just you and him. This way he'll know he's still loved.
- Have proper storage for dirty diapers so that your pet cannot get into it.

Tips Specifically for Dogs

- Start with training. Teach your pet that you are the pack leader. Use consistency and positive methods. Teach him basic commands such as "sit", "stay" and "down."
- If your dog sleeps with you, get him use to sleeping in his own bed before the baby comes.
- Walk with the stroller before the baby joins in. This way the dog will not be jumpy when the three of you take your walk together.
- **Do not banish him outside.** This is counter-productive. Instead, when separating the dog, put him in a pleasant place in the home.

Tips Specifically for Cats

- Cats are very independent and will usually sniff a new person and then return to whatever they were doing.
- Cats can be trained to like the new baby with treats. Reward your cat for being social with the baby and not acting out or afraid.
- In rare instances, cats will begin urinating on the baby's items or outside her litter box. The marking has to do with claiming territory and relieving stress, not spite. **Do not punish this behavior.** Punishment tends to increase stress. Instead, take steps to prevent this behavior.



Pregnancy and Pets



Overall, dogs do not pose any health risks for your developing baby. Jumpy or highly active dogs may need training to control unwanted behavior as your belly grows.

The primary concern related to cats is the transmission of an infection called toxoplasmosis. Transmission occurs from contact with feline feces. Outdoor cats are more likely to carry toxoplasmosis than cats that remain strictly indoors. Toxoplasmosis is found in outdoor soil and in meat.

If you have had cats for a long time, it is likely that you have already had toxoplasmosis - which is good - because once infected, your body builds up antibodies to protect itself from a repeat infection.

If you have a cat, follow these steps:

- Take your cat to be tested for Toxoplasma. If your cat has an active infection, ask a friend to take care of it until you are further along in your pregnancy.
- If your cat is not infected, keep her inside and do not let her eat raw meat.
- Clean the litter box daily or have someone else do it.
- Do not hold cats that you do not know.
- Always wear gloves when gardening.