

Tips for Your Dog **BEFORE & AFTER** Your Baby is Born



BEFORE *baby is born*

- 1 Get your dog on a “flexible baby friendly” schedule.
- 2 Firm up and practice basic manners (sit, down, etc).
- 3 Decrease unwanted or unsafe behaviors (seek help now if needed).
- 4 Introduce baby sounds to help guide your dog once your baby arrives.
- 5 Carry a doll to practice the “what if’s” What if I need to leave the room... where will the dog go.
- 6 Get your dog familiar with whoever will care for them while you are away.
- 7 Have a full physical completed by vet



AFTER *baby arrives*

- 1 Introductions should be calm and only when all are ready
- 2 The baby is yours and not the dog’s. This is a special time for you but not your dog. Keep it calm.
- 3 Be sure to provide **AWAKE ADULT SUPERVISION** at all times when the dog is around.
- 4 Leash or use an indoor tether to help the dog keep their distance while receiving treats when baby is with the adults in the room
- 5 Include your dog for short and successful sessions while you engage in baby routines.
- 6 Always have an adult hold baby for photos with dog and baby.
- 7 Your dog does not need to directly sniff your baby. The foot is a great spot to allow a sniff, not the head.