



The Safe Dog Handbook A Complete Guide to Protecting Your Pooch, Indoors and Out

By Melanie Monteiro

🐾🐾🐾 Health and safety, novice level

In addition to teaching pet first-aid workshops and raising puppies for Canine Companions for Independence (an organization that provides assistance dogs for people with disabilities), advertising writer Melanie Monteiro has worked in the pet industry for two decades. But it was the experiences raising her own puppy that prompted her to write *The Safe Dog Handbook*.

The book begins with methodical dog-proofing guidelines, such as a home walk-through to spot hidden hazards. Monteiro adeptly presents substantial information in a concise manner.

The comprehensive coverage is especially useful for novice owners who may be unacquainted with the risks posed by weather extremes, swimming pools, electric cords, unreliable fencing, toxic foods, poisonous

plants, vacations and holiday celebrations.

Experienced owners who know the drill may still appreciate the author's highlighted tips, such as the overrated dangers of silica gel packets, poinsettias and foxtails. "Rest assured however, that contrary to urban legend, foxtails cannot migrate into the brain and kill your dog!"

My favorite piece of advice was her blunt critique of retractable leashes, which make it impossible for the average owner to control his or her dog: "The retractable leash is a danger to dogs, their owners, passers-by, children, other dogs and just about anyone who goes near one while in use."

The book falls short in two important areas. The safety information for small breeds is limited. The air-travel safety guidelines also are inadequate, giving scant coverage to the



biggest risks of air-shipping pets.

Every owner needs a comprehensive first-aid guide, and this is the book's real value. The spiral binding and simple layout can be conveniently referenced during an emergency. The step-by-step first-aid procedures are simple and easy to understand, although more illustrations would have been helpful for novice owners.

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