

Do Welsh Terriers Get On With Children?

Nicola Writes:

I would be interested to know...What is the Club's opinion on Welshes with children? I have read that It seems that they are great with older children and thrive in their company but younger ones do seem to stress them out a bit. I only have terrier experience with Woody and he is a bit too interested in babies (humpy etc) and young kids. I think he sees them as equal to him so I am always very cautious. People always say 'oh he is ok - we love Woody' but I can tell he is not 100%, the yawns, staring etc. so I always tread with caution.

I know you can't tar them all with the same brush and they are all different but there seems to be a pattern where young families are concerned. Welshes don't tend to like getting pushed around I don't think and I guess in a busy house this happens. But having said that I think Woods gets bored with just the two of us sometimes.

When we have a big family get together he loves it but he does take himself off to bed upstairs when he has had enough to everyone's amusement.

... But I guess this is what we love about them. You never know.
x x

Lucy Ward:

I think the fact Christine C at the Welsh Terrier Club has recently had several WTs to rehome from loving homes but with small children, sadly says a lot.

I guess its an individual thing, and all about how things are managed from the outset ... and making allowances that dogs are dogs and, like kids can be unpredictable, but have sharper teeth!!!!

LX

Chris Cherry:

Ruby despite being very laid back can be very grumpy if she is woken up, or does not like what is going on when playing with young children. We keep a very close eye on her as she can make a big fuss, snap and scare the young ones.

Chris Cherry

Susan Cooper:

I have two Welshies, one aged 3 and one 10 months, I also have two small grandchildren, one aged 4 and one aged two.

They all get on brilliantly. They have been brought up together and the children have been taught respect for the dogs even at such a young age. You just need common sense with any breed of dog but I am very happy with my two Welshies. Patsy has posted photos of my grandchildren with the dogs Maggie and Merlin and you can see how well they interact together. Hope this helps.

Sue.

Isabella Bennett:

That's an interesting one isn't it!

As you may know, Chuck is a School Dog. He was even in my recent Year 6 School Play before Christmas. He's far happier with the children than he is with other dogs. He's an incredibly loving personality anyway, so cuddles with small people suits him. He's also not very 'terrier' so their rushing around and screeching doesn't bother him. For Chuck, the smaller the human, the better. Whilst he bounces up at us adults, he is 'four paws on the floor' for little ones. Lots of wagging tail and soft movements. They can get away with all sorts of behaviour, tugging his ears, poking him etc. which he refuses to entertain from adults. He instinctively knows when a child is upset and will go to sit with that child.

BUT.... he's been brought up in a School atmosphere since he joined us as a puppy, so the noise and chaos is something that's second nature to him. And whilst we have no children ourselves, Chuck has regular access to small kids. He's very protective of children. Opposite our house we have a little park and he will growl if adults get too close to children playing there.

Our other Welsh, Monty, was very different, and less sophisticated in his decision-making about his own behaviour, despite being brought up the same way and in the same atmosphere as Chuck. Like Woody, he saw children as his equals. There wasn't any humping, but you could see he thought they were playmates, and he wouldn't regulate his behaviour or usual activities - I never quite trusted him to wander off with children in the same way as I know I can trust Chuck.

I think it's down to the temperament of the individual dog - it suits Chuck, didn't really suit Monty.

Isabella x

Patsy Meecham writes:

I've had various experiences with all of my Welsh Terriers. If introduced at an early age, taught respect and trust (from both sides) they can get on very well with most children.

I think they are brilliant with older children, as they love to play football, or most ball games. I've always said every Welsh deserves a boy!

Currently, Captain Jack is amazing with our two-year-old grandson. He's very laid back and seems to know that Ash is a little nervous, so he stands very still and calm. Ash then strokes his back and is rewarded with a very waggy tail from Jack. Ash's face is a picture when he lights up with pleasure at this reaction. Next job is to teach young toddlers not to grab that waggy tail!

However, Daisy is beside herself with energy and wants to play, just like she would with another Welsh, so we have to keep her on the lead, until the time where she calms down.... although sometimes that can take quite a while! She adores seeing people, has not got an evil bone in her body, but goes a bit nutty! For example, jumping up and tugging on anything dangling, like scarves for example. It has also been known for her to almost steal an ice cream from a child in a pushchair. That is why I prefer traffic leads to the long extending ones as I have more control. Also having eyes in the back of your head helps! You can't ever be complacent!

Chris Amos writes:

I can only recount our experiences. Our boys were 8 and 10 when we got Bracken, our very first dog. They learned to respect other, puppy needle teeth to begin with and then Bracken learned to play football them.....plus she gate crashed a game at Avery Hill park! When Bramble came along she took her lead from Bracken.

When Tallie was 5 our first grandchild came along. She had no experience of children other than those we met when out. The baby, at 5 days old was placed on the floor and we introduced them to other. She was fine and has continued to be even after being sat on during the learning to walk phase! We have done this with all the babies (I have brilliant daughters-in-law)!!

Jasper has no experience of babies as yet but loves the children

as the photos I've sent previously show.

Both dogs will take themselves off to their beds when they've had enough and all the children have been taught not to go near or disturb the dogs when they're on their beds or eating.

These last few months Tallie has been sleeping longer and heavier, also her eyesight and hearing are not as keen as they were. We have now taught the children to speak to her before touching her so they don't startle her.

I think it's about setting ground rules for both dogs and children from day one and teaching them to respect each other. Also, I never leave dogs and children alone together unsupervised .

Chris

Ps...Our son and his wife took on a rescue Welsh, supposedly brilliant with children. However, we soon discovered he had a fear aggression of little boys and believe he had been kicked the little boy in his first home. Sadly, we had to rehome him and after taking a year to find the right people he now lives in an adult only home with a female Welsh Terrier and we get annual updates.