



Zorgbeest

## 12. Safety

- The handler:
  - takes all precautions to guarantee the safety of all those who interact with the dog (Kohler, 2011).
  - informs the patient (or posters can be hung in rooms, waiting areas, AAI area, etc.) about:
    - approaching the dog correctly;
      - respecting the dog's personal space;
      - giving the dog time;
      - not staring at the dog;
      - making yourself smaller;
      - not leaning over the dog (-> kneel);
      - not extending your arm;
      - allowing the dog to come to you;
      - being aware of your own body language;
    - recognising signs of stress;
    - how to prevent a dog bite (Duperrex et al., 2009; De Keuster et al., 2006);
  - never leaves the dog alone with the patient;
  - is extra cautious when children interact with the dog (Kahn et al., 2003) no matter what the breed of dog (De Keuster et al., 2006; Kuhne and Struwe, 2006; Kahn et al., 2003);
  - is aware of the procedure describing what actions must be taken if someone is wounded by the dog (e.g. wounds from the dog's nails: clean and disinfect) (Kohler, 2011);
  - stops the session in the case of a bite incident (Lefebvre et al., 2008);
  - reports any wounds, such as bites or scratches, to the care team immediately so that they can be cleaned and attended to quickly (Lefebvre et al., 2008);
  - ensures that those who interact with the dog do so appropriately (do not pull the dog's tail, ears, etc.) (Kohler, 2011; Sterneberg-van der Maaten et al., 2015);
  - stops the session if the patient shows inappropriate behaviour towards the dog;
  - checks the safety doors or double doors before the session starts so that the dog does not end up outside alone or in the wrong ward;
  - ensures there are no small objects within reach of the dog that could be swallowed or cause choking (Kohler, 2011).