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WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR DOG WHEN....

Have you thought about where you want your dog to be when you are doing things with your baby? Do you know what you want your dog to be doing? The more proactive you are in planning for these activities, the fewer problems you will have.

Next to each of the following scenarios write down where you want your dog to be and what you want him to be doing.

EVENT

DOG IS WHERE

DOING WHAT

When you are feeding the baby

When you are changing diapers

When you bathe the baby

When the baby is in your bed

When the baby is on a chair or couch with you

When the baby is on the floor with you

When the baby is in his chair or rocker

When the baby is asleep/napping

When you the dog and baby are in the car

When you walk the dog and baby

When you have to leave the dog home alone

When you are busy and need to separate baby and dog

If you find yourself not able to answer the “doing what” portion, or if you have several answers like “mind his own business” or “do anything but bother me”, then you need to think of more specific things for your dog to do. Once you have thought of these specific things to do, then think about how you can encourage and reward your dog for doing them.

Look at the examples below about where your dog might be and what he might be doing.

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SOME EXAMPLES OF WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR DOG WHEN...

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DOG IS WHERE</u>	<u>DOING WHAT</u>
Feeding the baby	On the floor nearby	Chewing on a rawhide
Changing diapers	Outside	Playing with a toy
Baby in your bed	On the floor nearby	Chewing on a food-stuffed toy
Baby on the floor With you	In the next room behind a baby gate	Lying quietly on a down stay
Baby and dog in The car with you	In the back of the car behind a barrier	Sitting or lying down

Your housing conditions, what interests your dog and what commands he knows will determine which of these examples will work for you. You may be able to use some of these in several different situations. Others may not be possible for your dog and housing situation. Be creative and think of things that are possible for your dog and will work in your environment. Then train your dog to do what you want before the baby comes.

If your dog doesn't know any commands, see the handout on teaching your dog the Sit-Stay command or take him to a good obedience class before the baby comes. See the handout on how to choose a dog trainer or behavior consultant to help you choose a humane and effective trainer.