

HOW TO APPROACH A DOG

Every dog has a different way of responding to people. Just like humans, some dogs are extroverts, while others can be shy and nervous.

Sometimes it's easy for us to see a cute dog and immediately want to touch them. However, some dogs may be scared of new people, so making sure we're interacting with them in a way that's calm and positive is really important.

Below are a few tips on how to safely approach a dog:

Always ask the owner

Some dogs may be nervous, over-excited, or in training. Whether the dog is on or off-lead, it's important that you ask the owner for permission first.

If you see a dog tied up outside a shop with no owner in sight, then it's best to leave the dog be.

Keep calm

Don't stare, shout at, or loom over a dog – all these things can seem confrontational to a dog, which might cause them to react or be afraid. Approach side on in a calm, gentle manner.

Know the signs

If, when you approach a dog, they start to turn away or look tense, it's very likely that they are not comfortable having you in their space. It's best to stop if the dog displays any signs that they're uncomfortable.

To approach a dog appropriately:

- If it's a small dog, crouch down to the dog's level. Always have one foot flat on the ground so you're able to quickly get up if needed.
- If it's a larger dog, approach side on with your hands by your side and encourage the dog towards you if they are comfortable.

HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

THE CORRECT WAY:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep either your SIDE or BACK towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.