



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

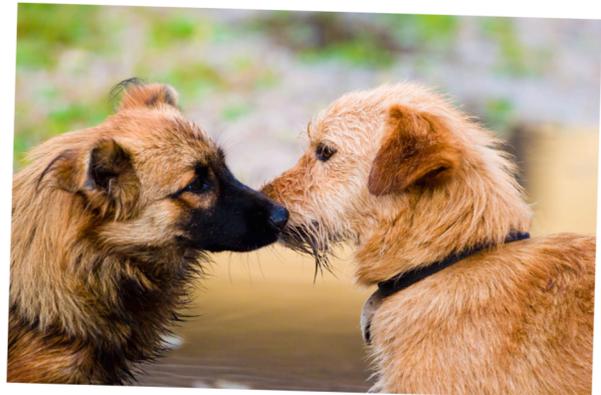
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Issue 35

Living with Dogs: The 5 Pillars of Successful Dog-Dog Greetings

1. Ask first, greet later. Always ask the guardian's permission before you let your dog meet another dog. The other dog might be shy, fearful, leash reactive, or — who knows? — in training to learn better greeting manners. This goes doubly for dogs in off-leash areas: If the other dog is on leash, there's probably a reason. Call your dog to your side and clip on the leash until you are well past the other person.



2. No pulling to say hi. Your chances of a successful greeting increase if your dog doesn't come on too strong. Even between dogs it's not considered polite to rush up and put your nose into someone else's face. Maintain loose-leash walking on the approach. If your dog strains at the leash, change direction for a few steps and then try approaching the other dog again.



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Dog quotes

"The social contract between humans and dogs might be the best bit of business we have ever done." – Paul Howard

cont.

.... dog-dog greetings

3. Relax. If you feel anxious about the greeting, your dog may pick up on it and react with over-excitement or fear. Take a deep breath, put on your best happy voice, and keep the leash nice and loose — a taut leash can add unintended tension.

4. Keep'em short and sweet. Even if two dogs are getting along famously, it's a good idea to cheerfully encourage your dog to walk away with you after 5–10 seconds. Why? If a fight is going to happen on leash, duration is almost always a component because leashed dogs don't have the option of increasing social distance when uncomfortable.

5. Don't force it. If your dog doesn't seem interested in saying hello, don't insist. Not all dogs enjoy the company of other dogs, and many dogs feel less comfortable saying hello while on leash. That's okay, too.



Did You Know: These Doggie Facts?

Memory. Unless trained or specifically taught through repetition, dogs have a relatively short-term memory span. Studies suggest that under normal circumstances (i.e. non-traumatic) dogs remember things for only 5 minutes. Cats, by contrast, remember for up to 16 hours.

Yawning. Don't think boredom. Dogs yawn for a few different reasons, most often stress — of the good or bad kind. Anxious dogs often yawn to release tension, as do pooches who know a walk is coming and just can't wait.

Eyesight. Dogs have better low-light vision and a wider vision span than humans. However, their ability to discriminate colour trails far behind ours. Dogs have the equivalent of human red-green colour blindness.



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