

How to Politely and Safely Meet a Dog

WAIT

Wait, take a moment to consider if the dog is busy playing, training, having a bad day or just prefer to be left alone to do their own thing.



ASK

Always ask the guardian (owner) if it's ok to say "hello" to their dog.



If the dog's guardian says

"NO"

Do not approach the dog or say hello. Walk away slowly.



If the dog's guardian says

"YES"

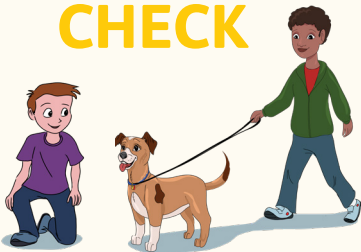


ASK



Always ask the dog if they want to be patted. Stand sideways, pat your leg softly and invite the dog to come to you with a calm "hello". This gives the dog a choice whether they want to be patted or not.

CHECK



Pat the dog for a count of 5, then stop. Give the dog the choice to move away if they wish or see if the dog asks to be patted again. The dog may lean into you, paw, or nuzzle you for more pats.

"YES"



If the dog chooses to interact with you: Stand on the dog's side, pat them gently. You could ask the dog's guardian where their dog likes to be patted best.

"NO"



If the dog chooses not to interact they may turn their head away, shake or walk away. It's okay, it's not your fault, it just means that the dog is not in the mood. Walk away slowly.

If the dog says
"YES"

If the dog chooses to continue to interact with you continue to pat them gently.



If the dog says
"NO"

If the dog chooses not to interact with you anymore that's okay it's not your fault, it just means that the dog is not in the mood. Walk away slowly. It is really important to respect the feelings of the dog – remember it is their body, so their choice.

