



# GREETING A NEW DOG

**We** might want to make friends with all dogs, but not all dogs want to make friends with us! Just like people, some dogs are shy. Some are scared in new situations. Others love greeting strangers and turning them into buddies.

Since they're all different, it's best to go slow when greeting a new dog and understand some of the ways dogs might signal that they want to be your pal, or aren't feeling up to it. Introducing yourself properly to a dog can also help keep you and the dog safe.

## REMEMBER THESE STEPS:

- Only approach if the dog is with his owner and on a leash. Then, ask the owner if the pup is friendly, and for permission before petting.
- Make sure the dog sees you before coming closer!
- Give the dog a chance to come up to you and sniff your hand. If the dog backs away from you, don't follow; thank the owner and walk away.
- If the dog is interested in being near you and appears relaxed, pet him gently on the side of his neck and back. Avoid reaching over the dog's head, and don't try to give him a hug.



Think about when you meet new people. You likely don't want them rushing over to you loudly and quickly. You don't want them touching your face, and you probably wouldn't like it if they stared at you either. Dogs feel the same way!

When you're patient and calm, pups and their owners will both appreciate your dog-meeting manners!



## SIGNS A DOG IS UNCOMFORTABLE

- His tail is tucked.
- The whites of his eyes are showing.
- He's yawning or licking his lips.

## SIGNS A DOG IS FEELING FRIENDLY

- His tail is up and wagging fast.
- His ears are relaxed.
- He "bows."



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