

## Meeting a New Dog, the Right Way!

Meeting a dog can be fun and exciting! But when we're meeting a new dog, we need to remember to practice responsibility to make sure we can keep having fun and that the dog has fun, too. Before we introduce ourselves to a new dog, we need to ask for permission from three places first:

### 1. Your adult

- a. The adult with you, whether it's a parent or other adult, can tell you if it's safe and if you have time to go make a new friend.

### 2. The dog's owner

- a. The dog's owner can tell you if their dog is friendly and if they have time to stop for a moment to let you meet their pup.

### 3. The dog!

- a. Dogs aren't people, but they have the same feelings we do. When we ask for a dog's permission before meeting him or her, we are showing that we respect those feelings.

### The Sniff Test

Since dogs can't tell us exactly how they are feeling using words like we can, it's up to us to figure out if the new dog wants to meet us today. We can do that by using the sniff test!

Hold your hand out with your fingers tucked up (like a fist) and let the dog smell your fist to introduce yourself to them. When meeting the dog you can look for **'Yes' behaviors** and **'No' behaviors** to decide if he or she wants to meet you today.



'Yes' behaviors	'No' behaviors
Walks towards you	Freezes or stands still
Licks your hand or sniffs your clothes	Lifts lips or shows teeth
Leans on you	Lays ears back or tucks tail
Stands or sits beside you	Growls, snarls, or barks
Tail up and wagging	Turns away or backs away

If you see the dog doing 'Yes' behaviors, that might mean that they want to be friends! You can ask the owner if there is somewhere special that they really like to be petted or somewhere they don't want to be petted. If you see any 'No' behaviors that means the dog probably isn't in the mood to make new friends today.