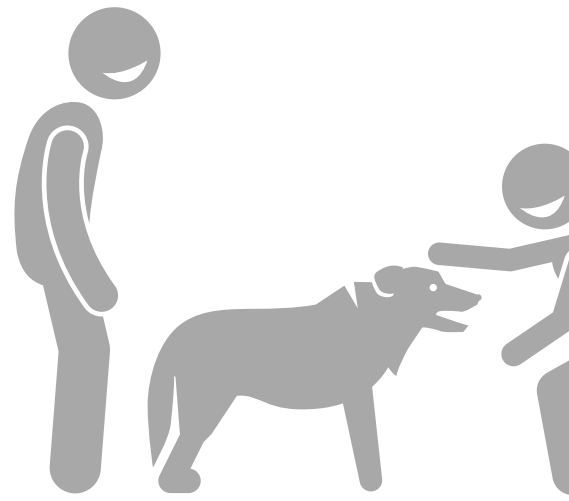


Polite Greetings

A Basic Outline

Importance of Crate Training

Teaching polite greetings with strangers helps dogs develop good manners and prevents unwanted jumping, barking, or fearful reactions. Overly friendly dogs learn to stay calm and wait for permission before approaching, while more hesitant dogs gain confidence by having controlled, positive experiences. Tailoring the approach to your dog's needs ensures greetings are enjoyable for everyone and helps build trust in new interactions.



1

Start at a Distance

Begin at a far enough distance where your dog can see the person but not react. Try starting behind a gate or have them in a crate until they settle.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Reward calm behavior and use a leash to prevent pushy, jumpy, mouthy behaviour. If they get too excited, move farther away from the person or stand in front of the dog until the dog can focus.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let them observe from a comfortable distance, rewarding calmness and engagement with you. Avoid forcing interactions.

2

Approach Slowly in Steps

Gradually move closer to the person so you are in control of what happens. Keep your dog's focus and reward calm behavior.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** If they pull or get overly excited, pause and wait for them to settle before moving forward. Use a food lure or cue to help them focus on you. If they can't settle, use your leash pressure and take a few steps back. Try again or put them away.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let them choose the pace. If they seem uneasy, give them space and allow them to approach on their terms. Allow them to create space from the person if they feel uncomfortable.

3

Practice a Default Behaviour

Before greeting, ask your dog to sit, stand calmly, or offer eye contact. Use a lure or cue (if your dog knows one) to assist with this.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Teach them to wait for a release command and be calm before moving forward. If they break position, reset and try again or create more distance from the greeter.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let them move where they want at a distance they choose allowing them to create space if needed, rewarding them for staying engaged and relaxed. Do not make them sit - allow them to flee and create space. Try a long line!

4

Introduce the Greeting

Allow them to approach the stranger in a calm, non-threatening way. Its better to approach the person as this is less threatening to the dog.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Have the person ignore them at first, only petting when your dog remains calm. They can also use some food to help direct your dog into a sit and prevent jumping.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let your dog decide if they want to interact. If they prefer not to, praise them for staying neutral rather than forcing contact. Coach the greeter to not make direct eye contact or sudden movements towards the dog. They may leave treats on the ground for the dog to approach on their own terms or allow the dog to approach a flat open hand with a cookie in it.

5

End the Greeting

Keep greetings short and positive by moving away before excitement or stress builds. start with under 3 seconds before allowing. a longer interaction.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Reward disengagement and move on before they get too excited. Use a food lure and leash pressure to encourage your dog back to you and away from the greeter.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Celebrate small wins, even if they just remained neutral or took a step closer without fear. Praise and pet vs rewarding with food. Try to keep all the food rewards associated with approaching the stranger.