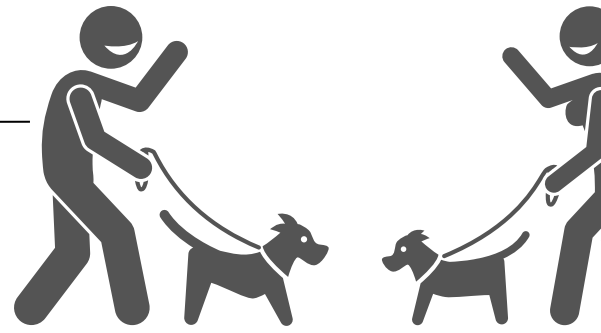


# Polite Greetings

## Other Dogs on Leash

### Safety First



Greeting other dogs while on leash can be one of the hardest skills to teach. Many dogs feel restricted, frustrated, or overly excited when leashed, leading to pulling, lunging, barking, or tension. Practicing productive calm, neutral interactions helps your dog remain polite and predictable in public. Controlled practice builds confidence in shy dogs and teaches excitable dogs to self-regulate. Here's where to start.

Most dogs don't need to greet every dog they meet. Teaching neutrality—calm coexistence without contact—is often the safest and most reliable goal for real-world manners.

1

### Start at a Distance

Begin where your dog can see the other dog but remain calm. Assess how your dog feels about the other. Use a leash, long line, or barrier to prevent rushing forward.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Reward calm focus on you, not the other dog. If they pull or whine, move farther away until they can hold engagement. Avoid letting them drag you forward.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let them observe safely from a distance. Reward looking calmly, sniffing, or relaxed posture. Never force them closer or tighten the leash to hold them there.

If your dog remains calm and responsive with you, proceed to the next step.

2

### Approach Slowly in Steps

Gradually reduce distance over several sessions. Keep tension off the leash by popping it when the dog creates tension. Take breaks often, and reward/praise calm energy.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Pause whenever arousal rises. Tug the leash, ask for focus or a sit before moving forward. Use leash pressure or food lures to reset if needed.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let them set the pace. If they hesitate, back away and give space. Encourage engagement and curiosity without pressure. Use your body movement to help prevent them from freezing.

If your dog remains calm and responsive with you, proceed to the next step.

### 3

## Keep Movement

Before greeting, allow the dogs to briefly pass by and sniff each other. Praise as they are interacting, slow down but *do not* stop walking and encouraging the dogs along.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** If they are *not* being overly pushy or intimidating to the other dog then verbally praise. Reward with pets and a bit of food.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Praise and encourage while allowing movement away from the other dog. Keep a shorter leash if your dog lunges. Praise relaxed body language and movement rather than forcing a stationary cue.

### 4

## Interaction

Allow the dogs to join together in a moving circle pattern keeping the leashes from tangling. Circle and move with the dogs. Always advocating for the dogs space, especially around the head and neck area.

- **Overly Friendly Dogs:** Redirect longer than 3s sniffing and pushy behaviour with the leash, keep a shorter leash, allow shorter interactions (10s or less). Pet and praise calm, balanced behaviour (do not use food rewards). Only allow 30 seconds of intense play.
- **Underly Friendly Dogs:** Let your dog decide if they want to interact. Allow them more leash to create space. If they prefer not to, praise them for staying neutral rather than forcing contact. Use pets and your body to help the dog feel supported. Always create movement using the leash and your voice to prevent your dog from freezing

### 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. Leaving calmly teaches control and builds positive associations.

- **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.

Before allowing the dogs to interact again (for longer) ensure both dogs have positive and productive play styles. Work up to periods of 30s before encouraging them to separate.