



Dog Etiquette

How to Greet a Dog



Here are some ways to use canine body language in everyday situations when greeting dogs you are meeting for the first time or dogs you don't know well.

The three most important things to remember when meeting a dog:

1. NO TOUCH
2. NO TALK
3. NO EYE CONTACT

Also make sure to:

- ~ Keep your breathing easy and relaxed.
- ~ Instead of approaching let the dog come to you.
- ~ If you do approach the dog NEVER straight on, instead turn your side rather than facing the dog head-on.
- ~ Avoid sudden movements.
- ~ Speak in a monotone friendly voice with a lower register, but not one that is too low or too harsh.

Once the dogs settle down you can squat or sit on a chair and wait to be approached. When they come to smell you don't say anything, don't look at them, don't pet them! Let them get all the information they need about you. After that you can slowly move your hand under their chin where they can see where your hand is going, not over his body. Then pet them gently on the chest or on the side of the face.

- ❖ Don't reach over their body to pet them on the top of the head or back until you know them well and are sure they enjoy being petted there.
- ❖ Don't bend over the dog! This can be threatening for them as it is a dominant posture.
- ❖ Don't show your teeth when smiling as this means "don't come closer to me or I bite you!"