

# How to Greet a Dog (and What to Avoid)

Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

Human to Human INCORRECT	Human to Dog INCORRECT	Human to Dog CORRECT
 <p>HEY!!!</p> <p>Avoid reaching into their safety zone.</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching in or towards the dog's car.</p>	 <p>Stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.</p>
 <p>CREEP!</p> <p>Avoid rushing up.</p>	 <p>YIKES!</p> <p>Avoid rushing up.</p>	 <p>Approach slowly (at a relaxed walk).</p>
 <p>STRANGER DANGER!</p> <p>Avoid interactions without asking.</p>	 <p>STRANGER DANGER!</p> <p>Avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.</p>	 <p>MAY I PET YOUR DOG?</p> <p>Ask if you can interact first.</p>
 <p>Avoid staring at people. This is scary.</p>	 <p>Avoid staring at or approaching head-on.</p>	 <p>Approach sideways and look using your peripheral vision.</p>
 <p>Avoid looming over.</p>	 <p>Avoid leaning over or towards dogs even when you change position to squat or get up.</p>	 <p>Stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.</p>
 <p>Avoid reaching into personal space.</p>	 <p>Avoid reaching your hand out for the dog to sniff.</p>	 <p>Let the dog approach at his own rate.</p>
 <p>Avoid close interaction if the person is afraid of you.</p>	 <p>Avoid petting if the dog looks nervous or tense. Just admire him instead.</p>	 <p>It's OK to pet the dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you, and solicits your attention by rubbing against you.</p>
 <p>SQUEEZE</p> <p>AAARGH! DON'T LIKE!</p> <p>Avoid touching inappropriately.</p>	 <p>Avoid hugging, kissing, and patting roughly. This is too familiar and disliked by many dogs.</p>	 <p>Pet gently.</p>

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