

Doggy Ways

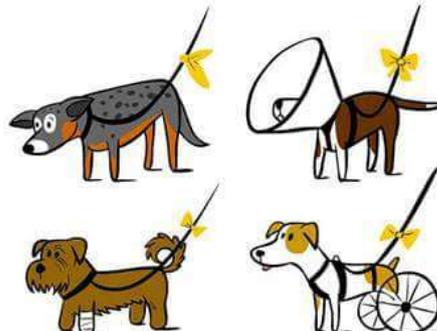
Socialization with other dogs

To ensure the safety of everyone involved, please follow these guidelines when letting your dog meet and interact with another dog:

- Before you let your dogs meet, both owners need to agree to let the dogs engage, that means you both should be comfortable with it. If you are both comfortable with allowing the two dogs to meet, you should make sure everyone is calm (humans and dogs) and do so with a loose leash. Be sure to have an exit strategy. Don't allow their leashes to become a tangled mess.
- The Three Second Rule:
 - Three seconds is the maximum amount of time the initial greeting should last. Three seconds is one alligator, two alligator, three and walk away. If there's barking or growling that happens before that, walk away sooner.
 - When you're walking away after number three, give the dogs a second to forget about one another. Once both dogs have been distracted, you can bring them back for another meeting assuming the first one went well.
 - Keep your eyes peeled and be fully present.
 - Eye to eye greetings are a recipe for disaster. If there is a stare down going on, don't allow them to meet.
 - Tails tell a tale. If tails are stiff, tucked or only the tip is wagging like a rattle snake, this is a sign that you either need to disengage before the three seconds are up or really watch closely for those initial three seconds.
 - If one dog is positioning his head over the top of the other dog's head, walk away.
 - If their jaws are tight and they're not breathing, walk away.
 - What you want is a relaxed posture with loose wagging tails and relaxed jaws.
 - It is common and good for dogs to sniff each other's butts. That being said, even if the initial greeting is good, the three second rule still applies for the one out the gate.
 - Last but not least, the three second rule is particularly important for the first greeting, but a very good practice for all dog greetings, even for dogs that already know each other. Give them their three seconds, walk away and if all goes well, take it from there. There will most likely come a time when you can eliminate the three second rule but it's always a good idea to work up to it.
- If you are unsure of how your dog will react to another dog or if you do not want to be approached by another dog yet, please place a yellow ribbon on your dog's leash as per the image below. Please also give a dog and owner some space if you see another dog wearing a yellow ribbon.



If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space.**



There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

HEALTH ISSUES
IN TRAINING
BEING REHABILITATED
SCARED OR REACTIVE
AROUND OTHER DOGS