



**DOGGIE DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY**  
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## **INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO OTHER DOGS**

Here a few simple guidelines that you can use when introducing your dog to another dog.

First there are a few DON'T'S:

- NEVER leave your dog and other people's dogs alone in the same room, yard, or area unsupervised.
- Avoid any rough play or tug of war type games as these can encourage too rough of play which another dog may not like.

Next, follow the LEADERSHIP EXERCISES (see handout). This will help establish you as the pack leader and help dictate to the dog what behavior is acceptable and allowed.

Also, enroll the dog in a Basic Obedience course. This will continue to strengthen the bond between family and dog and will help the dogs become better and better at listening. The commands can be incorporated into everyday activities and are very valuable tools in behavior training.

When you want your dog to greet another dog, make sure first that it is ok with the owner. Respect the other dog's owner's wishes. They may not want your dog to meet their dog so don't force a greeting.

Always make sure to reward the dog for showing the correct behavior when greeting and interacting with another dog. However, use discretion when using treats when the other dog is present since you don't know how the other dog will act. Use some other type of reward if necessary.

When in doubt and you can't control the greeting, walk away until you can get your dog's attention back on you.

Be patient, consistent, and persistent.

When walking up to another dog, watch your dog's and the other dog's body posture and behavior.

Here's a list of common dog body postures:

### **Relaxed Body Posture**

Tail down  
Ears up, but not forward  
Head high  
Corners of mouth relaxed

### **Alert Body Posture**

Tail straight out  
Ears forward  
Mouth closed  
Stands tall on toes

### **Offensive Threat Posture**

Tail up and stiff  
Hackles up  
Ears forward  
Nose wrinkled  
Corners of mouth forward  
Stands tall and forward on toes

### **Defensive Threat Posture**

Tail tucked  
Hackles up  
Ears back  
Pupils dilated  
Nose wrinkled  
Corners of mouth back  
Body lowered

### **Passive Submission**

Tail tucked  
Eyes looking away  
Rolls onto back

### **Active Submission**

Tail down  
Ears back  
Forehead smooth  
Licks at mouth of superior dog/human  
Corners of mouth back  
Groveling movements with forepaws  
Body lowered

### **Play Bow**

Tail up and wagging  
Ears up  
Mouth is open with tongue visible  
Front end lowered

### **Stress**

Tail down  
Ears back  
Pupils dilated  
Rapid panting with corners of mouth back  
Body lowered  
Sweating through pads

The Relaxed Body and Play Bow are the preferred postures. Use caution with passive or active submission postures. Any other postures, walk your dog away and avoid contact. Note that your dog may not like every dog they meet.

If your dog and the other dog offers the correct behavior before coming nose to nose, proceed with the greeting making sure to give praise. Use caution when allowing one dog to smell the other dog's rear. One dog or the other may not like it and could aggress. When in doubt, don't allow it.

Make sure also not to allow your dog or the other dog to dominate. This usually occurs when one dog lays their head on the withers of the other or attempts to mount the other. If you are unable to control this, separate both dogs.

If you wish your dog to have playtime with the other dog, make sure they greet each other properly over several meetings rather than just one. Remember that the owners control when play starts/stops and to what intensity.

And as stated before, when in doubt or if either dog is showing undesirable behavior, separate them and either trying greeting again or just walk away. Make sure to stay calm and don't get over excited.