

# HOW DO I INTRODUCE MY DOG TO OTHER DOGS?



It is essential that your dog learns appropriate ways to greet and interact with other dogs. The only way to do this is to let him freely interact with other dogs.

## When meeting another dog ensure that:

- **You are relaxed.** If you are tense then your dog will become tense and the meeting could end in disaster.
- **Your lead is loose.** The importance of this cannot be stressed enough. If your lead is tight then this may encourage your dog to become tense and display unwanted behaviors, (barking, lunging, etc).
- **You do not try and drag your dog away from the other dog.** This could result in you increasing your dog's body height, by slightly raising his front feet off the ground when you try and pull him away. This will only encourage the other dog to respond to your dog with anti-social behaviour.
- **You do not interfere with the meeting.** Dogs have their own ways of saying hello and people are very good at misinterpreting them and causing a panic.
- **You find other dog owners and dogs that are confident.** It is no good to let your dog meet a dog, (or owner), that is going to panic and pull their dog away. Your dog will respond to this behavior in a negative manner.
- **Try and do as many introductions as possible off lead.** This will ensure prevention of human error. If you do not allow your dog to interact with other dogs off lead then he will become frustrated. This frustration can turn into aggression!
- **Try and mix with as many different dogs as possible.** This includes dogs of various breeds, sex and age.
- **Don't wait for something to go wrong.** Keep the meetings brief and positive. Avoid simply standing around staring at the dogs waiting for something to happen. Instead let the dogs say Hi then walk on enthusiastically.