

MEETING OTHER DOGS ON LEASH

Purpose: To help dogs feel safe when meeting other dogs and people and to teach owners what canine body language to look for to keep their puppies safe and teach them appropriate greetings.

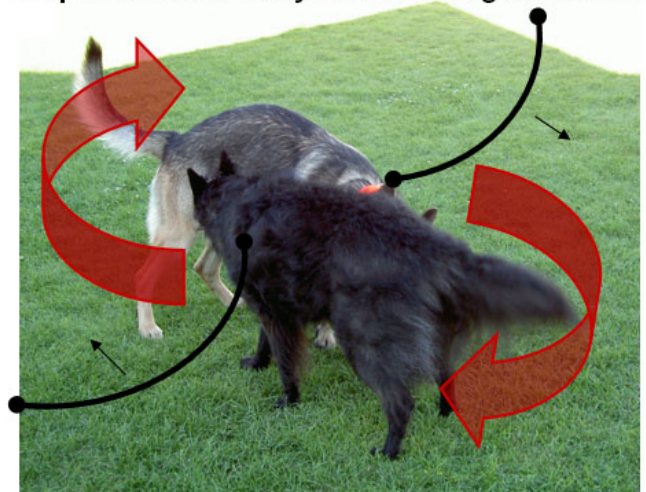
Protocol: Loose leashes, yummy treats, owners looking for signs that their pups are no longer comfortable with the greeting (head turns, lip licks, steps back, dropped tail, ears tight to head, etc.)

- Owner and dog approach other pup or person. When close, the owner says, "Go say hi."
- If dog does not want to approach, owner encourages dog to move away by wiggling fingers or patting his leg and saying, "All done!" As dog moves away, owner gives treat and moves away with dog.
- If the dog wants to approach and greet, the owner allows it to do so by taking care to have a loose leash as the pups meet. (Owners must be on watch to keep leashes from tangling. One strategy is to do the "Maypole dance"...moving in a circle in the same directions as the pups.)
- After 3 seconds OR when either dog indicates it is no longer comfortable with the greeting (head turn, step back, ears back, tail drop, etc) the owners respond by encouraging the pup to move away saying "All done!" and encourages the dog to follow them away without pulling on the leash: They may make kissy noises, wiggle fingers, clap hands or pat leg. As the dog moves away, the owner praises and gives a treat and continues walking away.

(No dragging pups away by leash unless it is an emergency.)

- If the dog shows interest in approaching again, the handler may respond by saying "Go say hi!" and allow the dog to approach as he is ready, following the above protocol on each approach and retreat.

Keep leash slack. Stay even with dog's shoulder.



The following illustration is meant for dogs who are outwardly reactive to the threat, but is just as important for dogs who are worried about a scary animal, person, place or thing.

B.A.T. EXERCISE

STEP 1: Stop when Boogie is at a safe distance, sub-threshold



STEP 2: Wait for a calming signal and mark it.

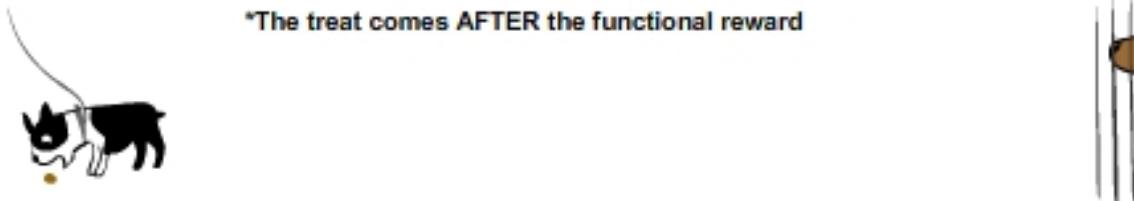


Step 3: Functional Reward = DISTANCE



Step 4: Optional/Bonus Reward = TREAT!

*The treat comes AFTER the functional reward



RINSE, REPEAT...or Leave in opposite direction.

The MORE OFTEN that Boogie is rewarded for NON-AGGRESSIVE behavior, he will learn that he doesn't need to react aggressively when something stresses him out. Ideally, we want him to respond with natural doggie calming signals, even when there is no human and leash around.