

# Reasons to say "No" to on leash greetings



Many dog owners believe that greeting other dogs will make them social, but it can have the opposite effect. Your job is to keep your dog safe and sometimes, it just means that you might come off as anti-social.

## Leashes get in the way of communication.

If they are only able to approach another dog based on the space allowed with the leash, they can send mixed signals to other dogs.

## Tension causes reactivity

Every animal has fight or flight instincts, and when dogs are leashed, the flight instinct is eliminated. This leaves only one option. Even if your dog isn't aggressive, the tension can be too much to handle.

## It reinforces poor behavior

If a dog is allowed to greet others repeatedly, they start pulling you toward every dog they meet, because they have learned this is acceptable behavior.

## You don't know the other dog

You don't know how trained the other dog is or how well the owner understands body language.

## It teaches your dog to value other dogs over you

If you allow your dog to meet other dogs whenever they ask, they learn to value the greeting over you. Devaluing yourself strains your relationship with your dog and leads to frustration for both of you.

## Dogs don't need to make dog friends all the time

Would you like to shake hands with every person you ever saw? Then dogs don't need to sniff every dog they meet.