

# How to Greet a Dog

## and What to Avoid

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Illustrations by Lili Chin

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Appropriate greetings are common sense. Imagine if someone greeted you the way many people greet dogs!

Lessons you'll learn in this book:

- 1 Don't approach dogs in cars.**
- 2 Approach slowly and calmly when meeting a new dog.**
- 3 Ask for permission when greeting a dog.**
- 4 Avoid staring at unfamiliar dogs or approaching head on.**
- 5 Don't loom over a dog you are just meeting.**
- 6 Avoid reaching into a dog's personal space.**
- 7 Avoid interacting if a dog looks scared.**
- 8 Touch and pet a dog gently.**

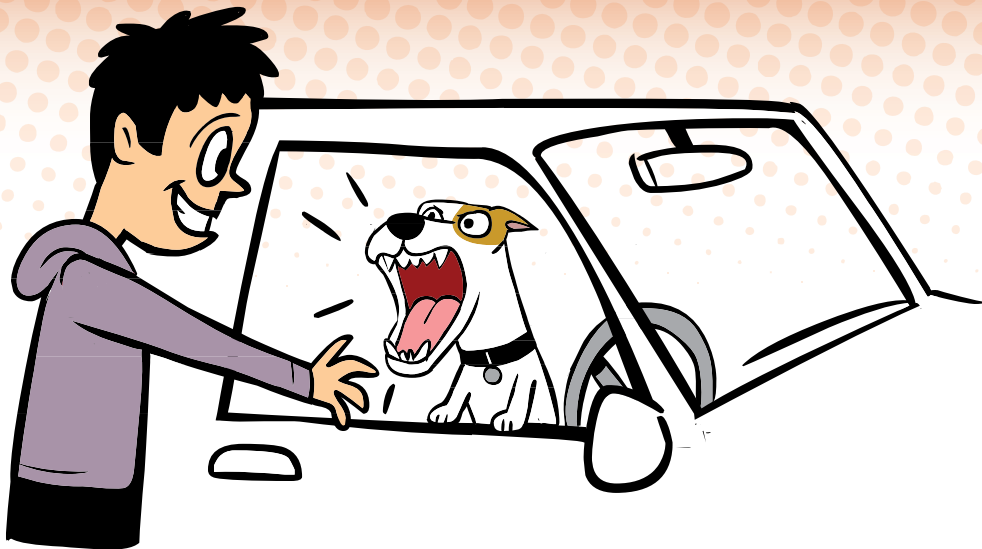
**1**

**Don't approach  
dogs in cars.**

When greeting a person in a car, you wouldn't reach in like this...

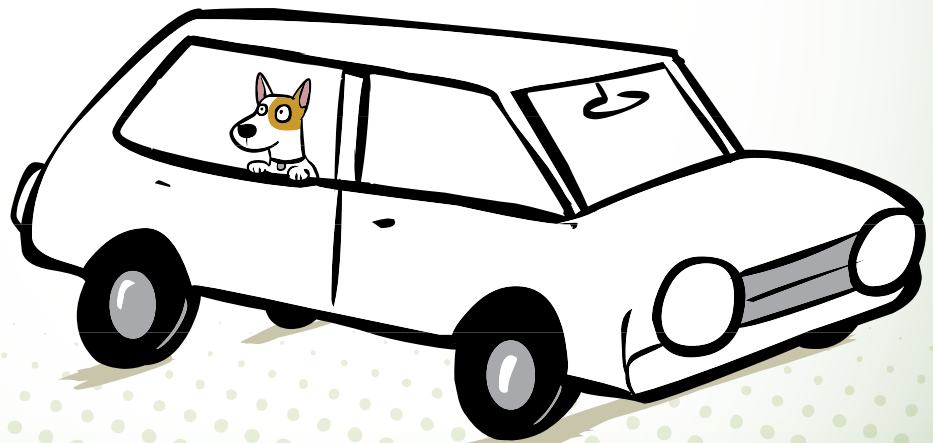


**INCORRECT**



...so avoid reaching in or toward a dog in a car.

**Instead stand a safe distance away so that you are not a threat.**



**CORRECT**

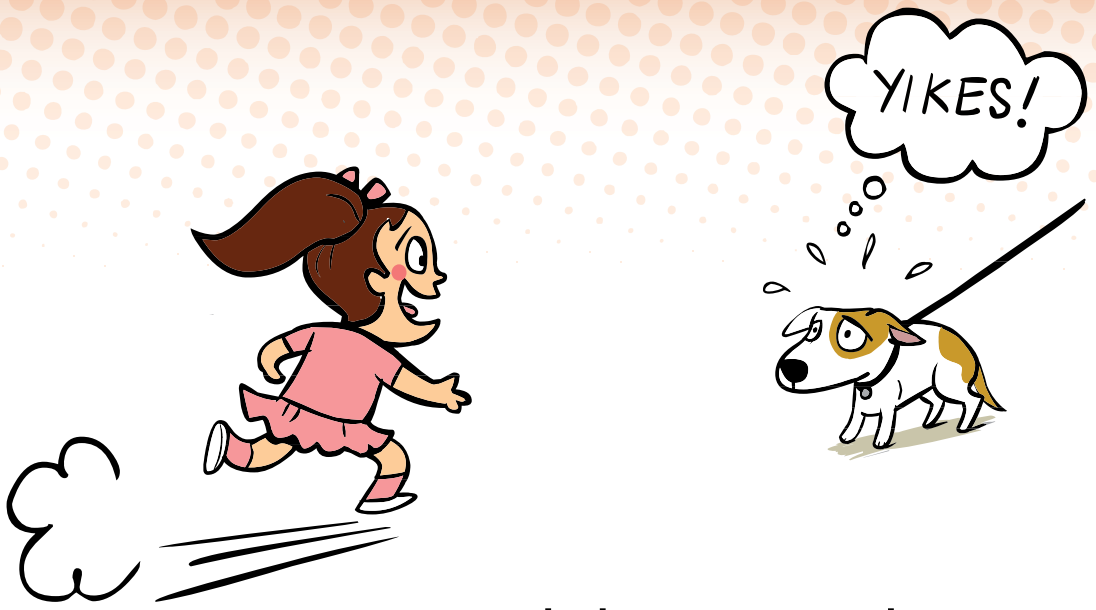
**2**

**Approach  
slowly and  
calmly when  
meeting a  
new dog.**

It can be scary when someone rushes up to you...

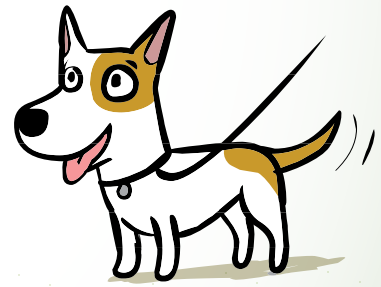


**INCORRECT**



...and alarming to dogs too.

**So approach slowly, at a relaxed walk.**



**CORRECT**



**3**

**Ask for  
permission  
when greeting  
a dog.**

Interacting without asking permission can be unwelcome...



**INCORRECT**



...so avoid interacting with unfamiliar dogs, especially if they're tied up.

**Be polite and ask first  
if you can interact.**

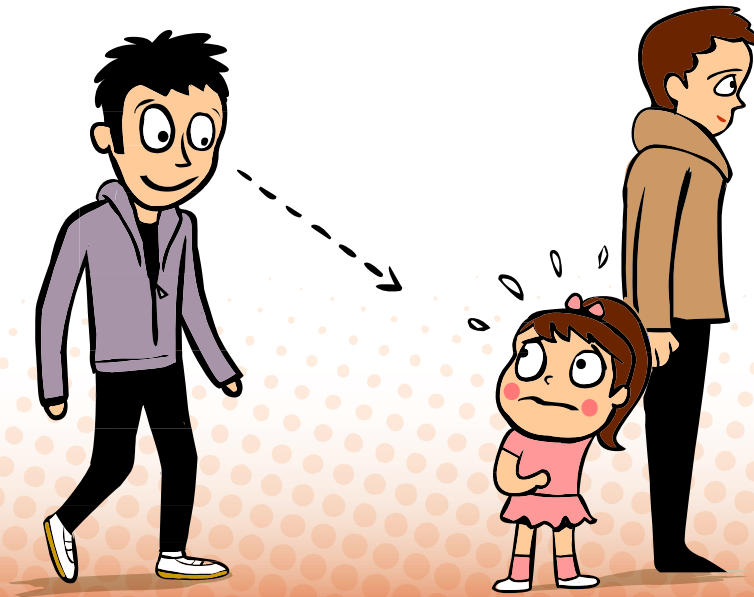


**CORRECT**

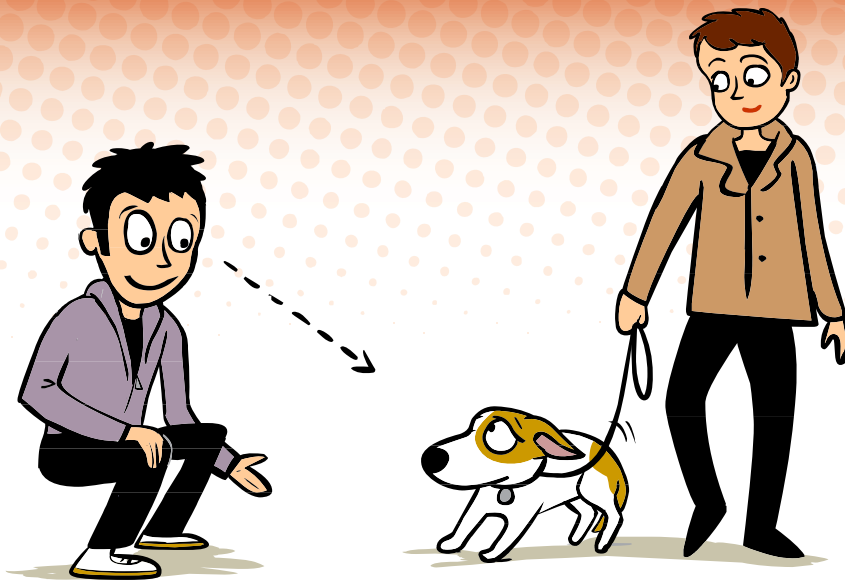
**4**

**Avoid staring  
at unfamiliar  
dogs or  
approaching  
head on.**

Staring can make people feel uncomfortable...

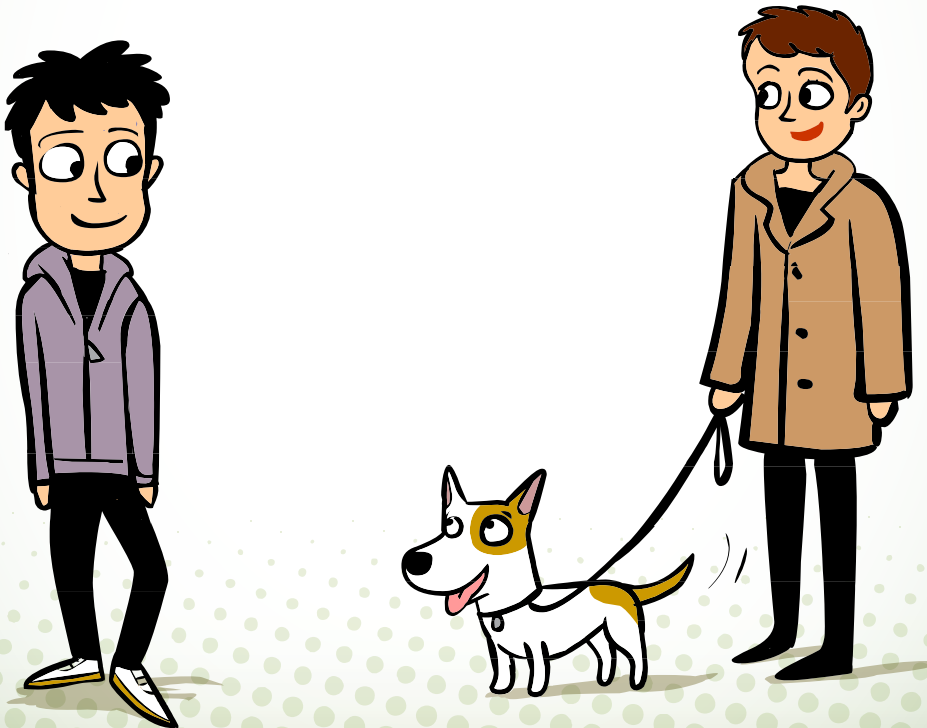


**INCORRECT**



...and it's the same with dogs too. Avoid staring at or approaching a dog head-on.

**Approach sideways and  
look at the dog using your  
peripheral vision instead.**

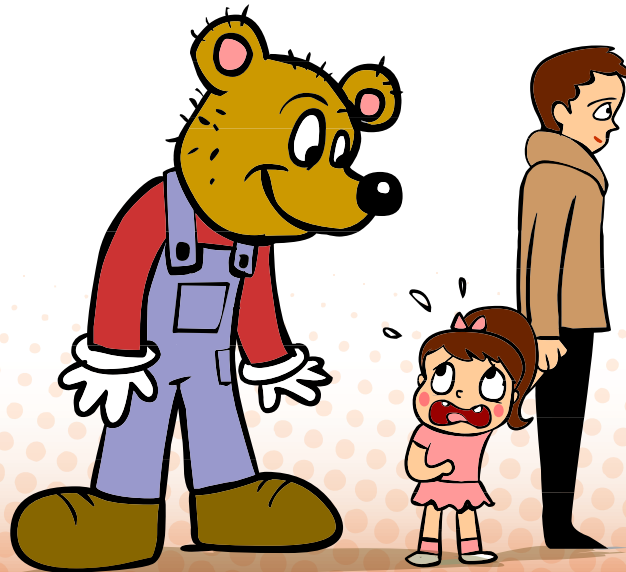


**CORRECT**

**5**

**Don't loom  
over a dog  
you are just  
meeting.**

Hovering over someone can make them scared..



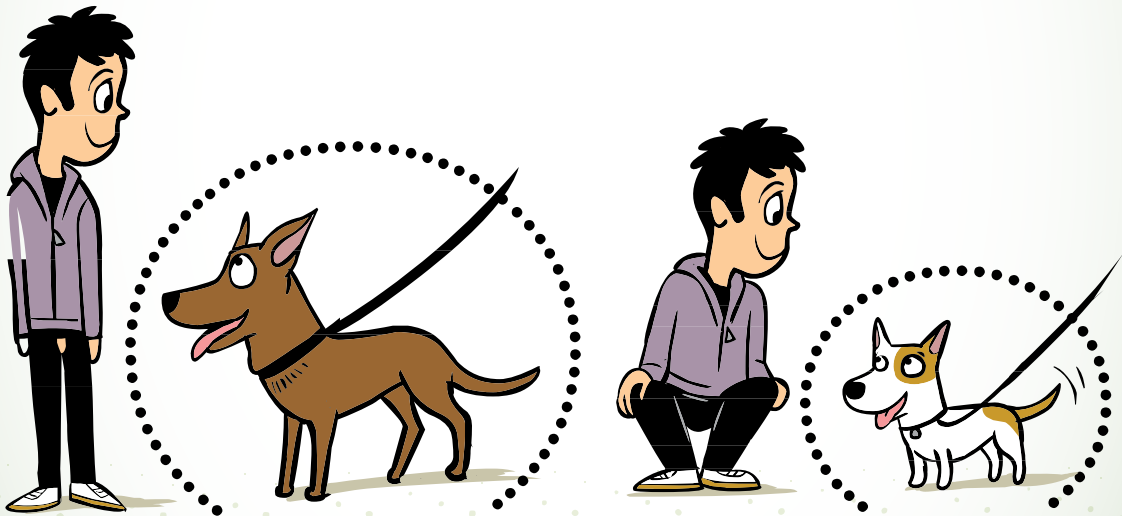
**INCORRECT**



...so avoid leaning over dogs too, especially when you move or change positions.



**Make sure you stay outside the dog's bubble and present your side to the dog.**



**CORRECT**

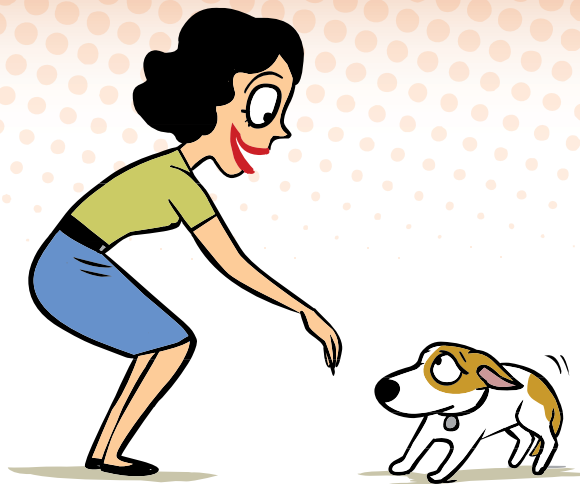
6

**Avoid reaching  
into a dog's  
personal space.**

Reaching into someone's personal space or coming too close can be rude...



**INCORRECT**



...so avoid reaching your hand out to a dog, even if it's to let them sniff.

**You're more likely to make friends if you present your side to the dog and let him approach at his own rate.**



**CORRECT**

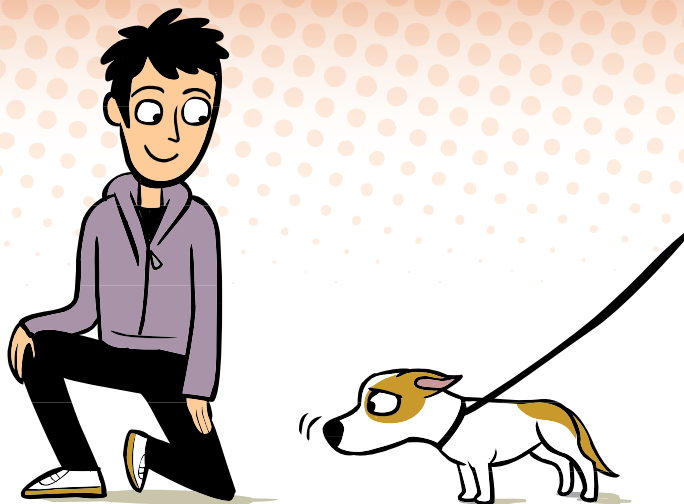
**7**

**Avoid  
interacting  
if a dog  
looks scared.**

A thoughtful person who senses fear in someone they are approaching stays back rather than getting too close like this...

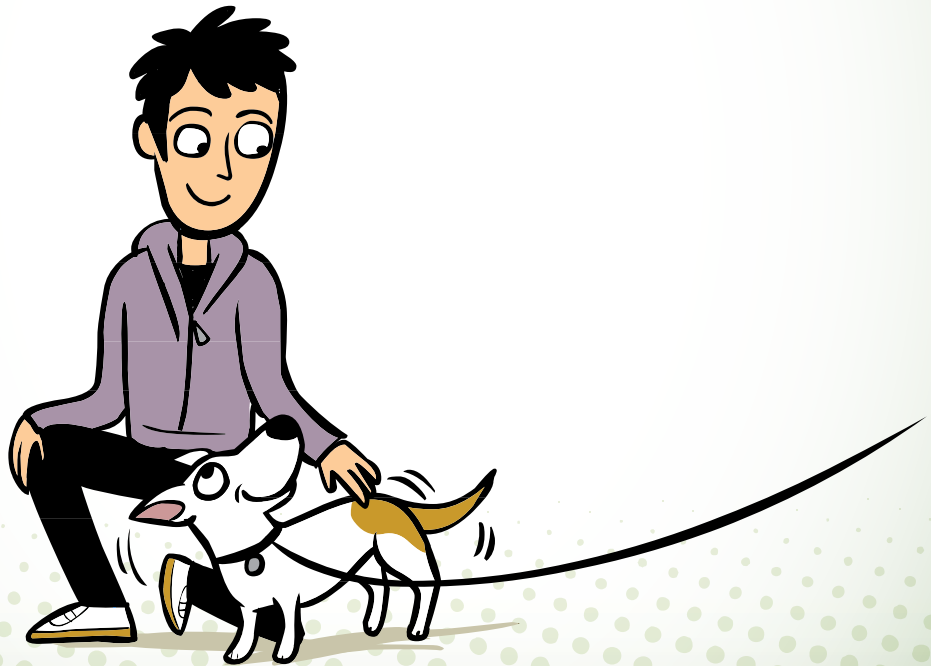


**INCORRECT**



Do the same and avoid petting or reaching for a dog who looks nervous or tense.

**It's OK to pet a dog if he looks relaxed, comes up to you and rubs against you.**



**CORRECT**

8

**Touch and  
pet a dog  
gently.**



Some friendly gestures are unwanted or unwelcome by people...



**INCORRECT**



...and many dogs dislike seemingly friendly or overly familiar gestures too. Dogs often dislike hugging, kissing and rough petting.

**Be mindful of the dog's feelings and pet gently.**



**CORRECT**

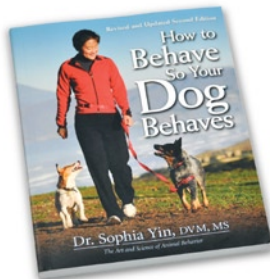
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## About the Author

**Dr. Sophia Yin** is a veterinarian and applied animal behaviorist, with a passion for helping people understand animals and their behavior. Voted one of the Bark Magazine's 100 Best and Brightest, she has been producing cutting edge educational materials for over 20 years. She is the author of several books and textbooks, including *How to Behave So Your Dog Behaves*, *Low Stress Handling, Restraint and Behavior Modification of Dogs & Cats* (book and DVD), and *The Small Animal Veterinary Nerdbook*®, a best-selling textbook for veterinary students.

Dr. Yin graduated from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1993 and later earned her Master's in Animal Science in 2001 from UC Davis where she studied vocal communication in dogs and worked on behavior modification in horses, giraffes, ostriches, and chickens. During this time she was also the award-winning pet columnist for The San Francisco Chronicle. Upon receiving her degree focused on animal behavior, Dr. Yin served for five years as a guest lecturer in the UC Davis Animal Science Department. She taught three upper division undergraduate courses in domestic animal behavior and supervised students in various animal training and behavior research projects. She also developed the Manners Minder (a.k.a. Treat and Train) remote controlled, positive reinforcement dog training system ([www.MannersMinder.net](http://www.MannersMinder.net)).

Dr. Yin currently owns and operates a house calls practice for pets with behavioral problems, works at San Francisco Veterinary Specialists ([www.SFVS.net](http://www.SFVS.net)), runs a popular web site with free behavior information, ([www.drSophiaYin.com](http://www.drSophiaYin.com)), has consulted for several zoos, lectures internationally on animal behavior, and has served as a behavior expert for shows such as Dogs 101 on Animal Planet. She is also on the executive board for the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior and was a member of the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) Handling Guidelines Committee.

For more information on Dr. Yin and on animal behavior visit her site at [www.drSophiaYin.com](http://www.drSophiaYin.com).

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