

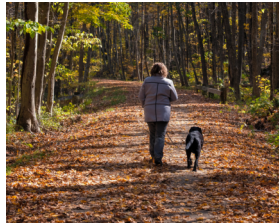


TO LEASH OR NOT TO LEASH

OFF LEASH CONCERNS



<https://www.mass.gov/guides/massachusetts-city-and-town-ordinances-and-bylaws>



IT'S THE LAW

Massachusetts lets each town determine their leash law. It is against the law to have your dog off leash, even if the individual location says it's ok. IT IS NOT OK!



PUBLIC SPACE

Every place you take your dog has public access. It is not species specific. Humans with no dogs are allowed to walk the same trails. BE CONSIDERATE.



PEOPLE

Not every person loves dogs. Some may fear them. Humans can have allergies, PTSD, or physical ailments or could be frail due to age or size. BE CONSIDERATE.



UNKNOWN

You don't know the other dogs and their behavior or health concerns. You may also not know the human and their behavior, history with dogs or health concerns



ON-LEASH DOGS

People may not be comfortable having their dog off leash for many reasons. Its not our place to question why another chooses to have their dog on leash.



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE LEASH GREETING



FEAR

The dog you want to approach may be afraid. Animals that are fearful are more likely to be reactive towards the on-coming dog or human.



REACTIVE

Reactivity may look like excitement to others. Reactivity may be fear, aggression or excitement based, which can create a fight or flight response.



OVER EXCITEMENT

Over stimulation can increase poor choices. Feelings of excitement can quickly turn into fear or reactivity. Be mindful that not every dog likes to be greeted with over excitement



WHAT PEOPLE THINK PUPPY SOCIALIZATION IS	WHAT PUPPY SOCIALIZATION ACTUALLY IS.
Meeting other dogs and Puppies: 10%	Locations & Environments (Stores, City, Playgrounds, Vet Office, Grooming Salon, etc): 14%
Meeting Friends: 10%	People (Equipment, Dropping Things, Friends, Emergency Sounds, etc): 14%
Meeting Strangers: 10%	Surfaces & Textures (Gravel, Mud, Wetters, Surfaces, Grass, Toot, etc): 12%
Going to the Pet Store: 10%	Being Relaxed and Focused around Humans: 12%
Get Used to the Vet & Home: 10%	Being Relaxed and Focused around Humans: 12%
	Things (Vet tools, Grooming tools, Kids Toys, Movies, Footstools, Fans, Vacuum, Yard Decorations, etc): 8%
	Equipment (Household Appliances, Yard Equipment, Dog cars, etc): 8%
	Events (Kids playing, Emergency, Celebrations, Parties, etc): 5%
	People (Old, Young, Disabled, Colors, Skin, Scars, etc): 5%
	Handling (Paws, Ears, Mouth, etc): 5%
	Fun (Grooming & Vet Care): 5%
	Smells (Spring, Food, Cleaning, people, etc): 5%
	Meeting Animals (Cats, Dogs, Birds, Rabbits, Reptiles, Farm, etc): 2%

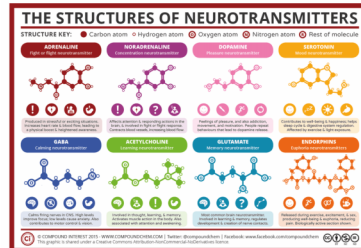
SOCIALIZATION

This is not just meeting other dogs and people. Socialization is more. We should only be spending 15% of the time meeting dogs & people properly.



BAD EXPERIENCES

Not every dog has had good experiences with leash greetings. Bad experiences can lead to PTSD in dogs. They can create a learning history of poor experiences.



PET PARENT FEAR

Pet parents may have fear of their dog meeting other dogs. Human fear can impact how our dogs are feeling. If we feel anxious or nervous our dogs will react differently.



SENSE OF SMELL

Dogs have powerful noses. They can identify 500,000 different odors in their lifetime. Dogs smell sickness, anxiety, fear, and hormones. A dog will act differently with every dog & human they meet and it could be due to with what they are smelling.



INEXPERIENCED

We don't know the experience level of the other owner and their dog. If we don't know their experience level how can we trust that they will greet our dog politely?



WHY NOT TO LEASH GREET



HANDLING SKILLS



Lack of proper handling skills with our dogs can impact how our dog perceives interactions.

If you have not been trained properly in both casual leash handling and defensive handling, you could be increasing your dogs reactivity on the leash.



MINDSET



Do not try to "Get over it" or have the mindset of lets "Give it a try" with your dog.

Every bad experience a dog has, can lead to PTSD or unwanted behavior changes in our dog. Don't leave anything up to chance with your dog.



HEALTH ISSUES



Dogs just like humans can have random or chronic health issues. Some owners do not always know if their pup is feeling "off" in the moment.

If you are sick or your dog is sick you should not be leash greeting.



UNPREPARED



If you are unprepared, your behavior will be different than if you are prepared.

If your dog is unprepared for a leash greeting or is startled by another dog approaching for a leash greeting, it will change your dogs behavior



TIMING



We don't always have time to say hi to other dogs.

When we are rushed we have different emotions than when we are calm. Our feelings change the way we smell, which could impact the way our dog reacts.



LACK OF PRACTICE



If you don't practice appropriate greetings in a safe environment, how will your dog know how to greet politely. A lack of time is no excuse for not practicing.



LOCATION



Location matters. Tight confined spaces or narrow walkways are no place to have leash greetings, as the dog can feel trapped and react in a defensive manner.



UNTRAINED



Untrained dogs may not know how to properly leash greet other dogs or people

Puppies especially are still learning and don't always understand

PROPER WAY TO LEASH GREET

EACH ONE OF THESE STEPS TO A PROPER LEASH GREETING SHOULD BE EVALUATED. CONSTANTLY MONITOR DOGS, PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT! DO NOT LEAVE IT UP TO SOMEONE ELSE TO PROTECT YOU OR YOUR DOG!

PROTECT

Always protect your dog first! if you know your dog struggles do not leash greet!

1

LOOK

Do you feel the area you are in is safe for a leash greeting? Do you have escape access?

2

KNOW

Do you know the other dog? Are they polite? Do they know how to leash greet correctly?

3

PREPARE

Are you prepared to meet another dog? Mentally & physically? Do you have treats for rewarding good manners?

4

DISCUSS

Make sure you discuss with the other owner how you would like to perform the leash greeting.

5

LEASH HANDLING

Make sure your leash is slack, and the other dogs leash is slack. Be prepared to employ defensive handling if needed

6

SMIFF, SNIFF, SNIFF

Dogs want to sniff in 3 places.
1. face
2. genitals
3. anal glands
It should be a 3 second sniff for each location.

7

and GO!

Once your dog has sniffed each location, Say "Lets go" and move away from the other dog immediately.

8

NOTE: IF BOTH DOGS ARE POLITE AND HAVE LOOSE CALM BODY LANGUAGE, YOU CAN DO MULTIPLE GREETINGS ON A LOOSE LEASH! REPEAT EACH STEP AT EACH GREETING.

CAUTION: IF AT ANY POINT EITHER ONE OF THE DOGS BECOMES STIFF OR BECOMES TOO OVER STIMULATED, DO NOT STAY AND LET THEM CONTINUE TO ESCALATE. MOVE ON QUICKLY, USING "LETS GO"