



# How to Approach a Dog

## Remember these steps when meeting and greeting a dog:

**Always walk slowly and quietly to the dog's owner to ask if you can pet the dog.**

**If the owner says "yes," curl your hand into a closed fist with the back of your hand facing upward. Extend your hand slowly to the dog.**

**Allow the dog to sniff the back of your hand. We recognize people on sight; dogs recognize people by scent. Dogs sniff people to learn their scent.**

**After the dog has sniffed your hand and has become familiar with you, pet it gently under the chin or on the chest.**

**Respect a dog's space. Do not stick your face into a dog's face or poke or prod at a dog with your hands this may make a dog feel afraid.**