



## Maplewood Dog Training

Certified Canine Behavior Consulting & Training

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[www.MaplewoodDog.com](http://www.MaplewoodDog.com)

*"Enhancing Relationships for Life"*

### Canine Meet & Greet Etiquette & Safety

by Katrin Andberg, CBCC-KA

An outing and walk with your dog can be a terrific and enjoyable experience or it can be a terrifying disaster. We all want what is best for our dogs and to set our dogs, ourselves and the others we meet up for safety and success. To ensure positive canine interactions, remember **Res-Co**. Act with **Respect** for others, behave **Responsibly**, and engage in **Responsive Communication**.

#### Respect

- Respect the rules of the park
- Respect that other people and dogs may not want to interact with your dog
- Respect your dog's body language and stress signals
- Respect that everyone has a right and need to feel safe
- Respect that **all** dogs are DINOS- Dogs In Need Of [personal body] Space

#### Responsibility

- Do teach your dog to be a Good Citizen, to be socially appropriate, and to come when called 100%
- Do keep your dog within 20' or less of you and Do put your dog on leash ***before*** approaching others
- Do clean up after your dog and properly dispose of waste
- Do pay attention to your dog and surroundings
- Don't let your dog run or walk up to or into another's personal space
- Don't assume dogs will get along with each other, even if you think your dog is friendly
- Never take the "Well, let's try this and see how it goes" approach

#### Responsive Communication

- **Pro**active communication is better than **Re**active communication
- Social interactions take at least two to tango, make sure the other dancers want the interaction too!
- Ask, don't assume
- "No," means No, and is non-judgmental. Gracefully accept and respect "No"
- Communicate with your dog, getting his focus and attention, ***before*** approaching another dog or person
- Attacks of any kind, verbal or physical, create barriers not break them down
- Take seriously comments or suggestions that your dog's behavior may be inappropriate and follow through with a qualified Animal Behaviorist (PhD or DVM degree) or Certified Canine Behavior Consultant (CBCC-KA or CDBC certification)