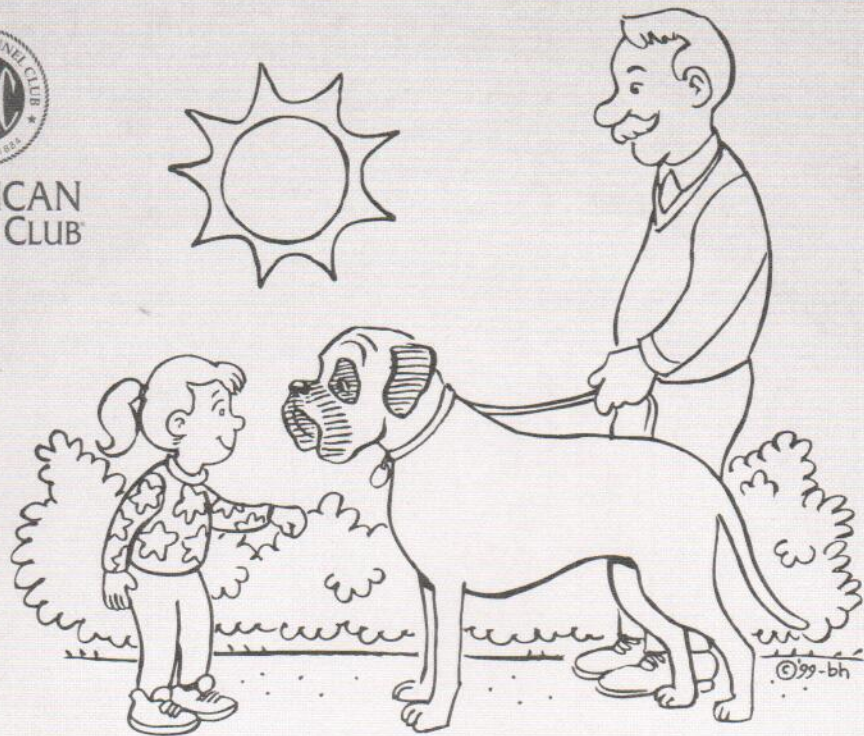




AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB



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.

HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
I don't care how cute you (or your kid) think Boogie is. Please show him some respect.



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

THE CORRECT WAY:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep either your SIDE or BACK towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.