



# Dog Conversations

The majority of dogs know how to speak dog, but sometimes it can go a bit wonky, usually because they're worried, over excited, or just inexperienced. It's our job to set them up for success as best we can and help them come away if it starts to go wrong.

The Stages of an IDEAL dog conversation

1. See a dog
2. Walk towards a dog (on a curve)
3. Say hi to the face
4. Say hi to the bum
5. Decide to play or walk away

Dogs will know if they want to play or walk away after three seconds

If the greeting is on lead then exit the conversation after three seconds so you don't end up in a big old tangle of leads.

If you spot and signs of tension or discomfort from either dog at any point, call the dogs away and end the conversation.

When dog conversations go wrong it's because there is a break down in the five steps.

For example instead of walking towards a dog, the other dog might charge full speed or lay down and stalk which can make the other dog uncomfortable.

Or your dog may go straight for a bum sniff and forget to say hi to the dogs face first

You can help your dog succeed in interactions by using either their name or a positive interrupter noise to call them away from the interaction if you see they've missed a step or have got too giddy!