

Ask Before You Pet Please

Imagine you are walking your pup happily down the street minding your own business. You are enjoying the scenery and the exercise together. Then, BAM!!! Some random stranger comes snatching yours pup from the ground and starts playing with your pup like they own them.

Now take this same scenario above but instead of a pup, replace it with a toddler or even an infant in a stroller. Now imagine a stranger who you have never met just swiftly picking up your child without any mind to ask and start playing with like they know them.

Most people would probably freak-out if some stranger was to pick up their kid. That's probably an understatement. Now a days many parents have pups instead of kids and they treat these pups like their kids. With that said I personally do not enjoy someone trying to randomly call out to my dog or pet him when he is working with me. Be it on a walk on leash or having drinks at an outside dog friendly restaurant, that pup is no different than a child.

Many parents do not mind if you compliment that their baby is cute, most puppy parents enjoy a compliment too. But most parents will probably not let some stranger they just met play or touch their child. Very few times do people push this boundary and understand not to pick up the baby unless the baby might be in danger. For some reason this goes out the window if it was a pup on leash.

However, many puppy parents are willing ok with you petting their pup ***if you ask!*** Unless a dog is truly aggressive most parent will be cool with you petting their pup, but this is the safety issue with petting someone's pup without asking because you do not know how that pup will react.

How can we better ourselves and the relationship with dogs in society today?

- Do not call out to other people's pups from across the street or when walking by as this is distracting.
 - Instead compliment the family and the pup.
- Do not snap and wiggle your fingers in front of a pup to get their attention.
 - Instead ask the parents if they have time and if its ok to play with their pup. Most parents prefer this.
- Do not just abruptly grab our pull at the pup it might be shy.
 - Instead get low and extend your hand down towards the pup, palm up but hand lower than their chest as this is more inviting.

Most of all respect the owner and the pup. If the dog is scared or in training help them out by listening to the parents instructions.

Let's help our relationship with dogs in our society by helping each other out. Stick to these few simple ideas and we are already on to a great start!

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