

## HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH MY DOG:

These days, encouraging or passively allowing protective or territorial behavior is asking for trouble. Our dogs must have the attitude that everyone they meet is a new friend - not a territorial intruder to be threatened. We can help our dogs be friendly by telling people how to greet them. The person-on-the-street generally doesn't know how to greet an unfamiliar dog. Many dog bites could be prevented if people presented themselves to dogs using non-threatening postures and gestures.

1. Allow my dog to approach you rather than you approaching my dog. By not invading my dog's personal space, my dog is much less likely to react defensively.
2. Position yourself so the side of your body is turned toward my dog. If you face my dog, you appear much more threatening.
3. Look straight ahead, off to the side or down. Don't stare at my dog. My dog might interpret eye contact from you as a threat.
4. Stand up straight (for larger dogs), bend at the knees (for smaller dogs, and if your knees are young enough!) or sit down. Avoid bending at the waist and leaning over my dog, which is another threatening posture.
5. Keep your hands at your side and allow my dog to come up and sniff. Don't hold your hand out for my dog to sniff. My dog could take exception to your hands reaching toward him and over his head.
6. I'll give you a treat to offer my dog. Please toss one on the ground at your feet so my dog must come forward to get the treat. Avoid trying to feed my dog a treat from your fingers.
7. If I tell you it's OK to pet my dog, scratch him under the chin. Avoid reaching over his head.
8. We'll let my dog decide if he wants further contact with you. Don't insist on trying to "make friends" with him. If he walks away, leave him alone.

The Humane Society offers three Puppy & Dog Training Classes each week—Wednesday at 11 AM, Thursday at 7 PM and Saturday at 1 PM. The class is a 6-week session; each once-a-week class is about 1 hour. For information contact Connie at 772-388-3331, Ext. 19.