

**Did you know? Many dogs cannot interact with other dogs or people while they're out in public.**

Here are some reasons why a dog might need space from others:

**Medical:** illness, injury, surgery, or rehab

**Occupation:** service and working dogs

**Training:** learning polite leash manners

**Age:** arthritis, vestibular disease, frailty, or blindness

**Behavioral:** fear, anxiety, reactivity, or intolerance of other animals

From Service Dogs that cannot be distracted from their work to injured dogs recovering from surgery, there are many situations in which dogs need a little space while they're out enjoying a properly managed walk in public.

We call them DINOS:  
Dogs in Need of Space.

**DINOS are good dogs, they just need space.**

For more information about DINOS™ please visit:

[dogsinnneedofspace.com](http://dogsinnneedofspace.com)

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# **Dog Walking Safety Tips**



**From DINOS:**

**Dogs in Need of Space**

# Ask First!

BE RESPONSIBLE, RESPECTFUL, SAFE

WWW.DOGSINNEEDOFSPACE.COM

## We need your help to create public spaces that we can all safely enjoy!

Responsible dog owners are aware of how their actions impact those around them and do not allow their dogs (no matter how friendly they may be) to disturb, frighten, or hurt other dogs or people.

By having your dogs under your full control, obeying leash laws, and asking permission first, you'll be responsible, respectful, and safe.

**Responsible dog ownership allows everyone, including children and senior citizens, to have safe, equal access to public spaces.**

## Dog Walking Etiquette Tips:

**Obey Leash Laws:** Dogs, even friendly ones, must be kept leashed at all times, unless they are in a designated off-leash area. Leash laws keep dogs safe (including yours) and protect the health and safety of people who are enjoying public spaces. No one is exempt from these laws.

**Pay Attention:** Put down your phone and be aware of your surroundings. Have both hands free to hold the leash and your eyes and ears open to what's around you. It's safer and more fun for you and your dogs.

**Ask Permission Before Approaching:** If you see a dog that you, your kids, or your dog would like to meet, stop moving and ask, "Is your dog friendly?" or "Can my dog say hi?" Never assume it's ok to greet an unfamiliar dog.

**Respect The Response:** Give others the time and physical space to respond. Don't force the interaction. If the answer is "No", please don't be offended. It's not personal.

**Continue On:** If a dog owner moves to the side so that you can pass, do not let your dog approach them. Please shorten your leash and continue walking. Many dogs are not comfortable meeting strange dogs while on leash.

**Do Not Give Chase:** Do not allow your dogs to chase people or dogs. Always have full control of your dogs, even on your own property, and respect the personal boundaries of others.

**Lock Flexi Leashes:** If you walk your dog on a retractable leash, please retract and lock your leash when others are nearby. This allows people and dogs to pass by without engaging with your dog. This applies to indoor spaces as well, such as the vet's office and pet stores.

**Please Be Kind:** These guidelines may be frustrating at times, but please refrain from arguing and name calling. One day due to illness, trauma, or other circumstances, you too may find yourself the loving owner of a dog in a need of space.

**The Rules Apply To Us All:** Dog lovers and those with friendly dogs often think they are the exceptions to these rules. No matter how good your intentions, the rules still apply.

*Together we can create safe, respectful, compassionate communities for everyone to enjoy.*



**Thank you for your support!**

To learn more, please visit:  
[dogsinnneedofspace.com](http://dogsinnneedofspace.com)