



## A Message from **DINOS: Dogs in Need of Space™**

There are many dogs that prefer not to interact with people or other dogs while they're out in public. Dogs that are DINOS are good dogs, they just need space.

Dogs might need space for various reasons, such as: illness, injury, old age, fear, service and working dogs, reactivity, and learning leash manners. DINOS have a right to enjoy properly managed, on-leash walks in public without interacting with other dogs and unfamiliar people.

In order to create safe communities where everyone can enjoy public spaces, here are some guidelines for polite leash etiquette that benefit all dogs (and people too!):

1. **OBEY LEASH LAWS:** Outside of a dog park, or otherwise sanctioned off-leash area, please leash your dogs. In many places, this is the law, designed to keep all of us (including your dogs) safe.
2. **ASK FIRST:** Always ask permission to approach an unfamiliar dog. A simple, "Can my dog say hi?", before you allow your dog to greet us, is appreciated.
3. **LISTEN TO OUR RESPONSE:** Give us time to respond. If we say "No", please don't be offended.
4. **RESPECT OUR SPACE:** If we move to the side, so that you can pass, do not let your dog approach us. Please shorten the leash and continue walking. Not all dogs are comfortable meeting strange dogs while on leash.
5. **DO NOT GIVE CHASE:** Please do not allow your loose dogs to chase us. Additionally, if we turn the other way or cross the street, we do not wish to interact with you or your dogs (for one of the many reasons listed above). Please do not chase after us, asking to meet our dogs.
6. **LOCK YOUR LEASHES:** If you walk your dog on a retractable leash, please retract and lock your leash, so that we may pass by without engaging with your dog. This applies to indoor spaces as well, such as the vet's office and pet stores.
7. **BE KIND:** While we understand that these guidelines may be frustrating at times, please refrain from arguing, name calling, or judging others. One day, due to illness, trauma, or other circumstances, you too may find yourself the loving owner of a DINOS. Please be compassionate.
8. **NO MATTER HOW NICE YOU ARE, THE RULES STILL APPLY:** Dog lovers and those with friendly dogs often think they are the exceptions to these rules. Please understand that we know our dogs best and must make choices based on their well-being. It's nothing personal. We believe that you and your dogs are really nice, but we ask that you respect our personal boundaries.

The DINOS thank you for your support. Together we can create safe communities for ALL dogs!

For more please visit DINOS: [www.dogsinneedofspace.com](http://www.dogsinneedofspace.com)