



# REACTING TO OTHER DOGS

## Before You Begin:

Welcome to Advanced behaviors! In these, your dog will be pushed hard to behave during distractions (some of which are very, very distracting!). The advanced behaviors we will be learning can be frustrating to both dog and owner, so if you find yourself getting frustrated, please **do yourself a favor and end the training session with something simple**, like sit. Ending a session on a good note will make you feel better and encourage your dog as well. By this point, your dog should be well versed in basic commands and willing to respond to them quickly without always needing a treat for their efforts.

## Reacting to Other Dogs

How your dog reacts to other dogs is very important. We want them to be happy and relaxed, but we also don't want them to be rude to the other animals who may not appreciate their personal bubble being violated. We will be practicing approaching other dogs and the proper manners expected of us during this time. To practice this at home, you'll need a second person with their own dog.

- Walk towards your helper who is standing still with their dog sitting beside them
- Pause in front of your helper, put your dog into a sit/stay and shake your helper's hand  
Your dog should sit politely, not jump or try to pull towards the other dog. Showing interest is allowed, but your pet cannot be rude about it. If your dog pulls or disobeys the commands given, turn around, make a big circle and try the approach again.

Eventually, you can begin having your helper walk towards you instead of standing still. The additional motion may excite your dog, so take it slowly.

Note: If your dog cannot approach another dog without barking and making a huge fuss, we recommend using the emergency U-turn technique. By practicing with the U-turns, you will be able to help get your dog under control.