



We continually update our skills and knowledge so that we stay current with the best practices that can help you and your dog.

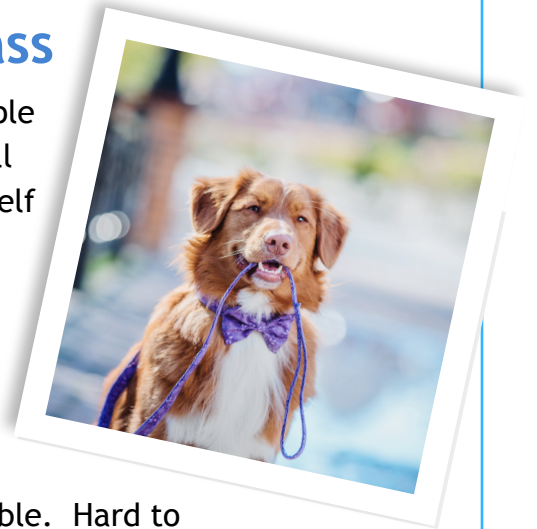
# cheerfuldogs chronicles

cheerful dogs, happy people

Issue 63

## Living With Dogs: Walking With Class

Most of us share the spaces we walk in with many others – people with and without dogs, dog walkers, cyclists, joggers, etc. In all interactions with others on trails and pavements, think of yourself as an ambassador, representing dogs and their people everywhere. The more people who are pro-dog, the better for all of us who love the four-legged family members and want to enjoy access to local parks and pavements. Here are five guidelines for getting walk etiquette right:



**No uninvited people greetings.** Not everyone finds dogs adorable. Hard to believe, we know, but nonetheless true. However charming, friendly, and utterly unfrighting your dog is, don't let him greet other people unless they have invited the interaction.

**No uninvited dog greetings, either.** No matter whether another dog is on or off leash, don't let your dog run up and greet the newcomer without asking first. He might not be the social kind.

**Build and maintain a strong recall.** Don't let your dog off leash unless you have him under good voice control. Don't have it? Fret not; you don't have to give up on the many joys and benefits of



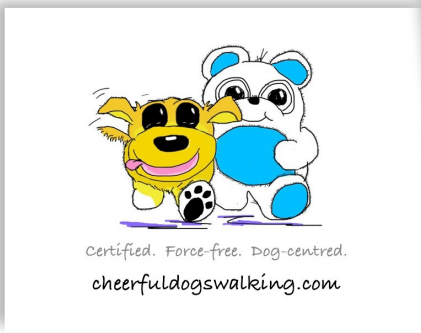
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## ... walking with class

Off-leash walks. Even older dogs can be taught a solid recall. Call a certified trainer and make an appointment.

**Ask before you treat.** A diet, allergies, a sensitive stomach, next-day surgery – you never know what you risk upsetting when you offer that treat without asking another dog’s guardian.

**Always pick up after your dog.** Compelling sanitary and environmental reasons support being a conscientious picker-upper, even when nobody’s watching. And if you occasionally remove what someone else left behind, well, that’s just good karma.



## Dogs In Action: Agility For All

Think agility is only for serious dog sports enthusiasts willing to spend every weekend on the obstacle course? Think again. Agility can be enjoyed at any level – even low-key backyard training – and you and your dog can still reap the many benefits of this fun, bond-building dog sport.

For example:  
Dogs of all sizes and breeds can participate in and enjoy agility. Yes, Border Collies and Australian Shepherds excel at it, but Yorkies, Papillons, Spaniels, Boxers, and mutts have mastered the sport too!

You can work the obstacle course at the pace that’s right for your dog, meaning agility can provide gentle, moderate, or strenuous exercise.

Training your dog to navigate agility obstacles using only hand signals and voice cues is a terrific way to improve communication – and further strengthen the bond between you.

Best of all? The fun you’ll have together and the confidence boost you’ll likely see in your dog. Mastering those tricky jumps, forging through a tunnel for the first time, figuring out what you’re asking of her – these are all thrilling experiences to a dog.



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