



## ASK FIRST! A Public Service Announcement from **DINOS™**

Always ask permission before you or your dogs approach an unfamiliar dog. There are many dogs that cannot interact with other dogs and/or people while they're out in public. By asking first, you'll be responsible, respectful, and safe.

**What is a DINOS?** DINOS are Dogs in Need of Space. DINOS are good dogs, they just need space. Here are some reasons why a dog might need space from other dogs or unfamiliar people:

- **Medical:** illness, injury, surgery, or rehab
- **Occupation:** Service and Working Dogs
- **Training:** learning polite leash manners
- **Age:** issues such as arthritis, vestibular disease, or blindness
- **Behavioral:** fear, anxiety, reactivity, intolerance of other animals

From Service Dogs that cannot be distracted from their work to injured dogs recovering from surgery, there are many situations where dogs need space while they're out enjoying a properly managed walk in public. At one time or another almost every dog will need space, even if it's just temporary. One day your dog might be a DINOS too!

Responsible dog owners are aware of how their actions impact those around them and do not allow themselves or their dogs (no matter how friendly their dogs may be) to frighten, disturb, or hurt other dogs. All dogs, including those that are not DINOS, deserve to be treated with compassion and respect.

### **Please Be Responsible, Respectful, and Stay Safe:**

- **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 and protect the health and safety of people who are enjoying public spaces. Responsible dog owners properly manage their dogs by obeying leash laws.
- **Have Your Dog Under Control.** On leash or off, your dogs must be under your control at all times. If you visit a designated off-leash area, your dog must have a reliable recall and remain under your voice control.
- **Ask First!** When you encounter a dog, always ask permission before you, your dog, or your child approaches them. Never assume it's ok to approach an unfamiliar dog without asking permission first. Stop and say, "Can my dog say hi?" or "May I pet your dog?"
- **Respect the Response.** Wait for the dog owner to respond and respect their wishes if they say "no" to your request. It's not personal. Their dog just needs space. Please give them enough space to pass by.

It's that easy! By having your dogs under control and asking permission first, you'll be responsible, respectful, and stay safe.

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