

Visual Clues that a Dog Needs Space

- Dog on lead or wearing a printed vest/bandana or any yellow indicator. Please assume it is for a reason and do not let your dog approach.
- Dog walker regularly looks around the area whilst walking.
- Dog walker 'randomly' changes direction on spotting you or someone else in the vicinity.
- Dog walker, on spotting you, encourages their dog to focus on them whilst you pass; this can be at quite a distance.
- Dog walker suddenly detours behind a bush, car or similar and stays there until you pass.
- Dog walker puts their hand up to get your attention. They may just need a minute to change direction without risk of your dog following.
- Dog walker calls out, 'Please can you call your dog back.'

A wagging tail does not always mean a dog wants to meet another dog. Depending on the wag, it can mean **high alert, arousal, aggression or anxiety!**

Mindful Dog Walking

Promoting **CALM** Walks for All

Some dogs struggle with ‘normal’ everyday stimuli when out, for example meeting other dogs, people, bicycles or joggers.

Most people who have a special dog in their life are working hard to manage, train and work with their dog to give them the best life possible. By taking just a few moments to be aware of who is around, we can all help more dogs enjoy a calmer walk.

Check:

Do a quick check to see who’s around before you let your dog off lead or throw a ball.

Aware:

Be aware of dogs walking on lead – always assume it is for a reason.

Learn:

Learn to recognize basic dog body language *and* that of their owner.

Moment:

All these things take only moments. Please help more dogs enjoy calmer walks.