

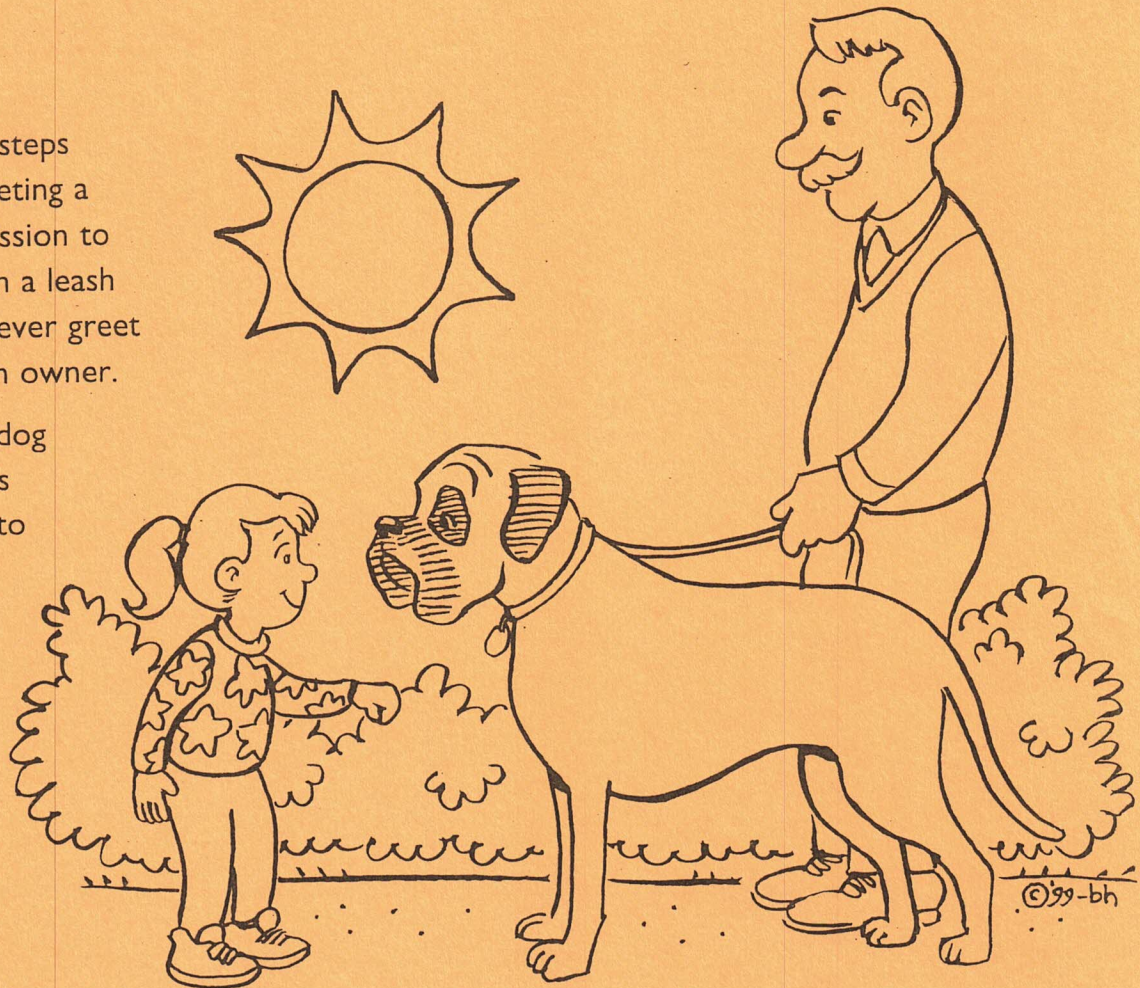


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How to Greet a Dog

Remember these steps when meeting and greeting a dog. Always ask permission to pet a dog when it is on a leash and with its owner. Never greet a loose dog without an owner.

Even if you know the dog and are friends with its owner, it's important to remember and follow this plan.



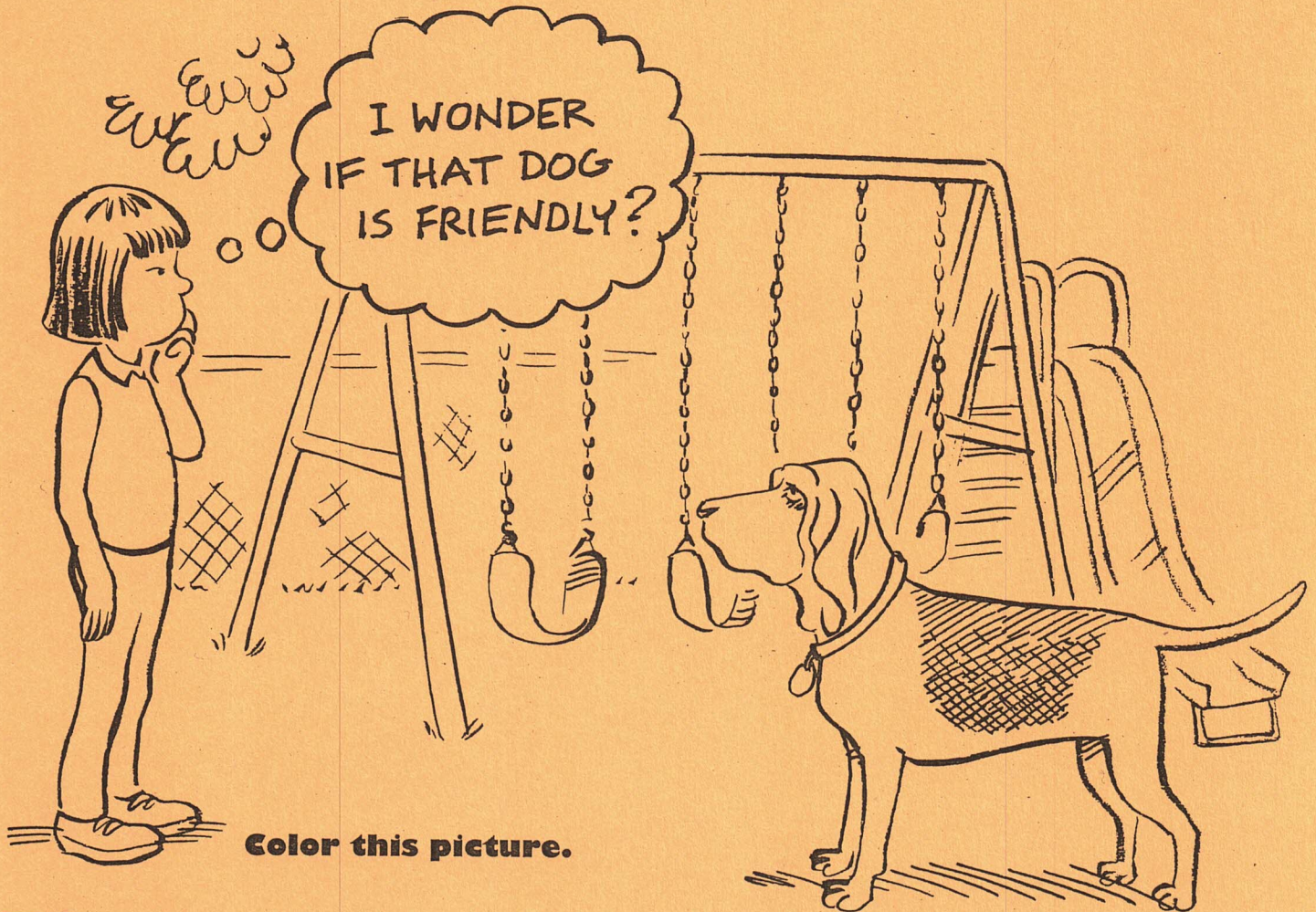
Grab some crayons, and color this illustration!

- 1.** Always walk slowly to the dog's owner to ask if you can pet the dog.
- 2.** It's important to receive permission before petting the dog. If the owner says "no," politely accept the answer, and don't pet the dog.
- 3.** If the owner says "yes," curl your hand into a closed fist with the back of your hand facing upward. Extend your hand slowly to the dog.
- 4.** Allow the dog to sniff the back of your hand. We recognize people on sight; dogs recognize people by scent. Dogs sniff people to learn their scent.
- 5.** After the dog has sniffed your hand and has become familiar with you, pet it gently under the chin or on the chest.



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How to Listen to a Dog



Color this picture.

You should not approach a strange dog without an adult present. If an adult is around or when you are in the company of a dog you know, his body language communicates how he feels. Learning to read body language or “listening” to what the dog is trying to tell you will help you stay safe around dogs.

Signs of a relaxed dog are:

- Tail down or wagging back and forth
- Its mouth and lips are relaxed (may appear to be smiling)
- Ears are neither back or forward
- You may be able to see its tongue
- Hair will lie smooth along its back

Signs of a threatening dog are:

- Wrinkled nose that draws back to reveal its teeth
- Body may appear tense and cocked
- Hair along the back of its neck may be raised, forming a long column along the spine
- May growl or snarl
- Ears may be pinned back

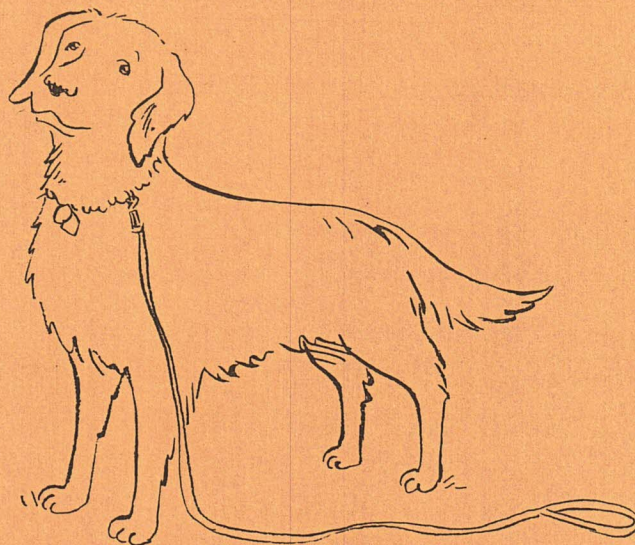
It is best to avoid any dog displaying any of these signs or acting in a threatening manner.



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What to Do if You See a Lost Dog

If you were playing outside and saw a dog you didn't know wandering in the neighborhood, what would you do? Draw a line connecting the paw-print trail to learn how you can stay safe, and help a lost dog find its way home.

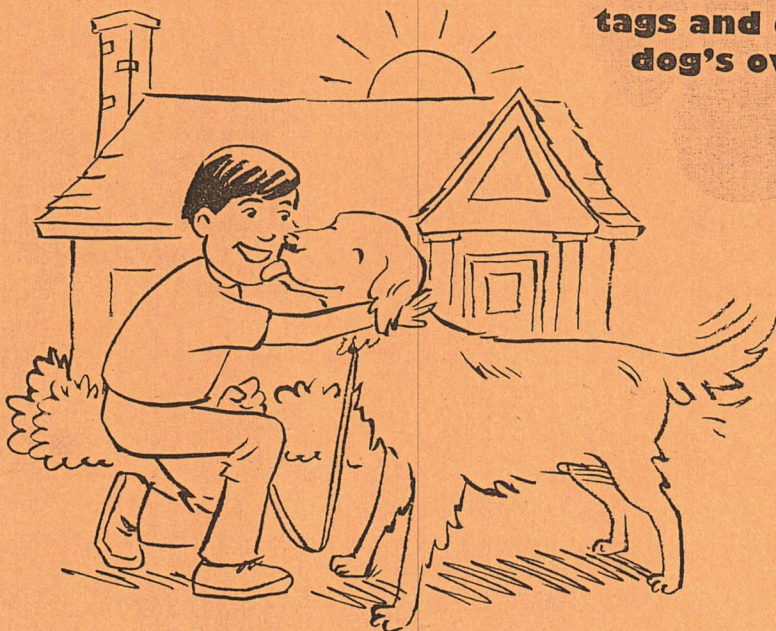


Tell an adult about the dog.

Never run to or away from a dog you don't know. Stand still, then slowly and quietly back away from the dog.

If the dog is friendly, the adult can check for its ID tags and call the dog's owner.

If the dog doesn't have identification, ask the adult to call area vets and the animal shelter to help find the dog's owner. If the dog has a microchip, the vet or shelter can use a scanner to find the chip and the dog's home.



If the dog is not friendly, stay away from it, and ask the adult to call an animal control officer.