

Hello, Doggy!

MARTHA SPEAKS™

Review with your children the safety tips below for meeting and greeting a new dog. You may also want to review general safety rules about not talking with strangers without being accompanied by a trusted adult.

- Before you approach a new dog, make sure the owner is there. If the dog is looking happy, eager, and friendly, ask, “May I pet your dog?”
- If the owner says “yes,” walk up to the dog quietly. Let the dog sniff the back of your hand. Dogs use their sense of smell to get to know someone.
- Stay calm and quiet as you pet the dog gently and say pleasant things, like “Good dog!” and “What a great puppy!”
- If you want, ask the owner if the dog has a special place where he or she likes to be stroked or scratched—such as behind the ears or under the chin.
- Some dogs do not feel comfortable with people they don’t know. If a dog looks nervous, upset, threatened, or angry, do not get close and do not try to pet it. Give him or her plenty of space. This will help the dog feel calmer and it will keep you safe.

For more fun and learning, visit the MARTHA SPEAKS Web site at pbskids.org/martha. For more about dogs, cats, and all kinds of animals, visit ASPCA Animaland at www.animaland.org.



Follow the adventures of Martha, the talking dog, in the new animated PBS KIDS television series, MARTHA SPEAKS. The show offers lots of laughs and fun but also a serious educational purpose—to help children expand their vocabulary.