Walking The Dog Suggestions
(Also helpful for the non-dog owner)

We have all been there. Out on the walk with our faithful companion when a dog seemingly without an owner comes bounding up to say hello or leap all over you and your dog, and on occasion this is accompanied by barking or growling behaviour!

Or you're out on your walk and your dog has chosen to totally ignore you in favour of another dog or scent which is on the ground. Or you are not a dog owner for whatever reason but you enjoy country walks until a dog comes bounding up to you and appears larger than life and you're frozen with fear!

Here are some suggestions which MAY be helpful at times like this:

In all cases remain calm and refrain from making eye contact with the loose dog(s).

- If you are in a situation where you can see a dog is about to bound up to you and your dog is on the lead then; ask your dog to SIT BEHIND YOU so that you are protecting your dog and NOT your dog in front of you trying to protect you. Some dogs do object to being on a lead whilst a loose dog bounces up to them as being on the lead takes away their Fight or Flight option.

- Your dog has chosen to ignore you … it can happen to even the most obedient dog! IF it is safe to do so then ALWAYS call your dogs name first or wait for a break in whatever your dog is doing then call his name and once he looks at you then run the opposite way looking back every now and then to see if he is coming…once he is then stand still and call him in with a happy voice and ALWAYS give lots of praise for returning to you. Give at least 20 seconds of fuss as you put the lead back on. NEVER EVER CHASTISE THE DOG FOR NOT RETURNING AT ONCE other wise he will be very reluctant to return to you another time.

- You're not a person who owns a dog but somehow you seem to attract dogs to you and usually the bouncy types with owners who

like to say things like ‘he’s very friendly, he wont hurt you’. I suggest you STAND STILL AND TURN YOUR BACK ONTO THE DOG. Try never to panic and flap your arms about as this makes the whole situation a lot worst. Remain CALM AND REFRAIN FROM MAKING EYE CONTACT WITH THE DOG(S).