

AKC New Exhibitor Mentoring Program Safety Do's and Don'ts

Meeting a fellow dog enthusiast is exciting, especially when you share a common interest in showing dogs or a specific breed. First meetings are perfectly safe, but it's always smart to take basic precautions. Always trust your instincts. And be sure to keep the following guidelines in mind:

DO meet in public.

Your first meeting should ALWAYS be arranged to meet in a populated, public place. NEVER meet in a private home or in a remote location. We suggest that a dog show or a club meeting is an excellent place to arrange for a first meeting.

DON'T ask the Mentee or Mentor to pick you up and don't offer to drive the Mentee or Mentor to your first meeting.

DO be wary of someone who is vague, talks in circles or answers questions with other questions.

DON'T give out your personal information until you feel comfortable with the relationship.

The American Kennel Club does not supervise these meetings and is not involved in any way with the actions of any individuals at these meetings. As a result, we have no control over the identity or actions of the individuals who are present at these meetings. We request that those using this program exercise caution and good judgment when meeting prospective Mentors or Mentees.