

Respecting Ruby...







Look at the pictures - what do you notice? What can you tell me?







Look at the pictures now what do you notice? What can you tell me?





Spot the difference – what is the same? What is different?

Today we are going to understand the importance of High 5, ALWAYS respect Ruby...

1. See
2. Stop
3. Speak
4. Sit/ Stay
5. Stroke



1 SEE 👀

“When you see the dog — react appropriately.”

Key message: Seeing the dog does not automatically mean you should run over.

- Is the dog working?
- Is the handler busy?
- Is the dog resting?
- Is the dog already helping someone?
- Is it appropriate to approach?



2 STOP

Stop and think.
This is probably the most important rule.
When you see our therapy dog, don't automatically walk towards them. STOP.
Our dog might be working. They might be helping someone. They might need some quiet time. They might not want to be disturbed.



3 SPEAK

Ask the handler.
This is where you introduce the magic question.
If you've stopped and you think it might be appropriate to approach, there is only one person who can give you permission...Who?



3️⃣ SPEAK 🗣️

🗣️ “Can I stroke your dog?”

Handler says yes? Great — but we're not stroking yet!

Handler says no?

That's okay. We respect the answer. Remember, our dog is a working dog.



4 SIT & WAIT

Wait for the handler. Permission to approach isn't necessarily permission to touch immediately.

The handler might say yes, but we still need to SIT and WAIT.
You should always wait until the handler has asked the dog to sit/stay and has indicated that it is okay.

We don't decide when it's time to stroke the dog. The handler does.



5 STROKE

Show our therapy dog some love!
Now comes the reward!
We've done all four High 5s.
We've seen. We've stopped.
We've spoken to the handler.
We've sat and waited.
The handler has said it's okay...NOW we can STROKE!



Appropriate stroke...

- Gentle hands
- Calm movements
- Stroke rather than grab
- Don't hug the dog
- Don't pull ears or tail
- Don't put your face close to the dog's face
- Give the dog space when they move away
- Most importantly: If the dog walks away, what do we do?

Be quiet, calm, gentle and slow



No loud noise, running or chasing games, they can stress or over excite dogs.

Give them space



Don't try to give dogs hugs and kisses, many dogs don't like hugs and kisses.

Play fair



Never tease a dog with toys, food or chasing games.

Let them rest



Don't disturb a dog when they are resting or sleeping.

Be gentle



Do not pull, poke, pinch, hit or kick a dog – this can hurt them.

Be respectful



Never climb, sit or stand on a dog.

Leave them alone



Leave dogs alone when they are eating.

Look and listen



Dogs use their body language and behaviour to communicate how they are feeling.

Remember...



Dogs have feelings just like you. Always treat them with respect and behave kindly and safely around them.

Get ready to show me the ‘High 5’ to Respect Ruby...



Thank you for always working together to ‘Respect Ruby!’



