

Munches, a social gathering of kinky people held at a restaurant/coffee shop, are usually the first event that many people attend. Events at bars are sometimes called sloshes and cigar events are sometimes called herfs. Now for some simple guidelines

## **MUNCHES ARE NOT PLACES TO 'HOOK UP'**

Number ONE! Munches are places to socialize, meet new people, and create connections and/or make friends. They aren't places to go with the idea of 'hooking up'. People will be uncomfortable if you go to munch explicitly to come on to people. Don't go around asking everyone out on a date or asking to play. Don't assume everyone is highly sexual or available. DO NOT TOUCH people without their consent. Remember the concepts of respect, consent, basic manners, and common courtesy and see what evolves.

## **MUNCHES ARE HELD IN PUBLIC SPACES**

Remember that munches are held in public venues. This generally means no fetish clothing, no collars, and no playing. Don't break the rules by bringing kink gear and/or doing small kink play. Absolutely no sex on premises. Like any event you go to, respect the rules of the space. Do research before attending and read the rules and ask questions if something is unclear.

## **PRIVACY**

If you spot someone you know at a kink event, do not tell everyone how you know them. The first rule here is to respect their privacy. Go up and say hello and make small talk. Especially in the vanilla world do not go and 'out' their kinky side to your mutual friends/family/coworkers. You could cost someone a job, a relationship, family, or community support. This, of course, also goes for people you do not know. When talking about people in the scene or an event, do not share private information, like real names, where they live or work. Privacy, especially in the kink world, is very important.

## **PEOPLE ARE PEOPLE**

Remember all your everyday people skills. Trust your gut. Talk, ask questions, and be polite. Talk about your interests, kink and everyday. It takes time and conversations but you can find a tribe.