Date Bait

We collected tips from POZ friends for those whose first date will be at least a threesome: you, the potential new honey and a pesky virus (or two).

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TRUTH SERUM: "My advice for first dates, HIV or no HIV, is the same: *Tell the friggin' truth.* People who have HIV should want people who can't handle it to go away so that they can move on and find someone who can. On the flip side, I wouldn't announce that I want to be spanked before the waiter arrived to offer us menus -- but if that was central to my sex life, I wouldn't keep it from my new romance until after we bought a house, either."

-- Dan Savage, sex-advice columnist, Seattle

PLAY DATE: "Keep your sense of humor and play -- that's what a first date should be about. For me, it's important to remember that I don't have to marry the person."

-- Krishna Stone, Gay Men's Health Crisis, New York City

LOOSE GOOSE: "Just go ahead and enjoy it -- and don't fret about impressing. Desperation is rarely an attractive quality."

-- Cal Cohen, MD, community doc, Boston

SILENT NOT: "Start talking the second you get there -- don't even stop for breath. Starting a date with awkward silences can be so romance-crushing you both might never recover."

-- Michael Musto, Village Voice columnist, New York City

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