

Teach a Dog to Ring a Bell

Housetraining some dogs can be especially challenging because they do not learn to clearly signal when they need to eliminate. Teaching a dog to ring a bell when it needs to go outside can be a help with housetraining. It takes time, but it is relatively simple if you follow to steps below.

- Purchase a small bell and set it near the door that you usually take your dog out to eliminate.
- Ring the bell immediately before opening the door to go outside with your dog. Do this every time for several days. Allow your dog to only explore the designated elimination area, otherwise your dog may associate the bell with playtime instead.
- Suspend the bell at the height of your dog's nose, causing it to ring, every time you take your dog outside. Repeat the step for several days.
- At this point, your dog may begin to approach the bell on his own when he needs to eliminate. If he doesn't, smear cheese or peanut butter on the bell each time you prepare to go outside to lure your dog to the bell. Allow your dog to lick the bell allowing it to ring, then praise him as you take him outside.
- Once your dog begins ringing the bell on his own, you must take him outside every time so that he learns the association.