

How to train your dog to ring the bells to go potty

- 1) Hang your New England Bell strap on your doorknob.
- 2) Every time you take your dog out, make him ring the bells and tell him to ring the bells to go outside and potty. Show him the bells every time he goes out the door and make sure they are rung even if you are doing the ringing.
- 3) You will be surprised when a few days later, you will hear the bells and your dog sitting patiently by the door.
- 4) If your dog doesn't figure this out, try this method. Smear a little cheese onto the bell. If your dog touches the bell, even if it doesn't ring at first, immediately give the dog a tasty treat. Repeat so the dog knows that a treat follows the bell touching, then bell ringing. Finally, open the door with the dog watching, and drop tasty treats on the floor on the other side of the door, so your dog knows the treats are there. Close the door. Encourage the dog to ring the bell, and then immediately reward the dog by allowing the dog to go through the door to eat the treats on the other side. Now your dog knows how to get you to open the door and take him outside.

Tips

- Show your dog the bells as soon as you hang them. Have him get familiar with the bells with some treats. Tell him to ring the bell, then give him a treat. Soon he will associate ringing the bell with treats, then with going out and going potty.
- Don't forget to make sure the bells ring and you say bells, every time you take the dog past them. Suggested phrase might be "Wanna go out? Ring the bell!"
- Sometimes dogs will ring the bells for fun. It is important that you take your dog out every time he rings the bells, even if he doesn't have to go. Eventually the fun will run out and he would have learned this trick.
- You can take the bells with you if you and your dog travel and stay at another location. Send the bells with the dog if it stays at another home while you are away. And finally, if you must find a new home for your dog, explaining that your dog is bell trained will make your dog more adoptable. Send the bells with your dog to its new home.

This is one of those trained behaviors that's SUPER simple to teach any dog, but really impresses your guests. But more importantly, it gives your dog a way to actually tell you he REALLY needs to go potty. This comes in VERY handy when you don't happen to be in the same room with your dog when nature calls... but with the ringing of the bell, you can hear your dog asking to go outside from any room in your house!