Teach Your Dog to Ring a Potty Bell

You’ll be amazed at how easy it is to teach a dog of any age to ring a bell when they need to go to the bathroom. Follow the simple instructions below.

Hang your bell next to your door either on the molding or to the side of it. Make sure to place it on the side the door opens and that the bell is at about nose height for your dog.

FOR HOUSE BROKEN DOGS: When your dog lets you know they have to go outside, show them the bell and ring it every time before letting them out. That’s it!

FOR PUPPIES: For a puppy put them on a leash. Stand them by the bell and ring it with your finger and say whatever word or phrase you use such as "potty". Then take them out and let them do their thing. Do this every time you take them to the bathroom.

There will come a day very soon that your dog or puppy will ring the bell themselves. Give lots of praise as you take them out.

TIPS: If your puppy is on a schedule for eating you will generally know when they have to go to the bathroom. As a rule of thumb its 5 to 20 minutes after eating, drinking, playing or sleeping.

Take your dog outside to play regularly. Do not ring the bell for that. This is to help them associate the bell with only going potty. (Though they of course might also go when playing.) It also helps to have a regular spot in your yard that they use for the bathroom.

IF YOUR DOG RINGS THE BELL TO GO PLAY: If and when your dog rings the bell because they want to go out and play, (and you don’t want them doing this) put the leash on them and take them out to where they go potty. If they start playing around, firmly say "no" and repeat your word or phrase for going potty. If after a typical amount of time, if they don’t go to the bathroom, bring them back inside. They will quickly learn they cannot use the bell for play time.

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