

Door Behavior

Rushing the Front Door: It's very embarrassing and concerning if someone rings the doorbell, you open it and the first thing your visitor encounters is a very nosy dog, or worse the dog gets out and make a mad dash down the street. Adopters and visitors will not like a bad mannered or disobedient dog, and find themselves possibly returning the dog or limiting the dog's time indoors with the family.

Reward container technique: Use the command "Away" for sending the dog away from something you do not want him to be close to. So when you hear the doorbell ring, order your dog to his designated place in the hall or to his bed. It is a simple command but very effective and extremely useful too. When the dog does go to his place when a door is opened be sure to reward his good behavior

You can get a friend to help you with teaching your doggie good door manners. So when a door opens, command your dog to 'sit' and 'stay' before you open it. Then greet your friend and ask her in. Tell her to initially ignore your dog that is sitting expectantly in his designated place. Then call your dog over to greet her. Do not make him wait too long. Otherwise his excitement will get the better of him and he might disobey your 'stay' command. Such behavior is a setback to any training schedule. And if your dog does approach your friend without your permission to do so, then just tell your friend to ignore him until he calms down. Then send him back to the 'sit' and 'stay' position.

Constant reinforcement of this exercise will instill in him the discipline of good door manners. Your dog will learn that rushing out to an open door without your permission to do so is unrewarding and unappreciated.

Pushing Through Doors: When you go near a door and the dog is with you, the tendency in him to be the first one out is predominant. You need to wean him away from such behavior, it is a passive dominate behavior and also shows a lack of patience.

Again request a friend to assist you in this faction of training. So put your dog on a leash and stand with him near the door. Ask your friend to ring the doorbell. When she does so, just open the door one teeny weenie bit only. The little crack of an opening in the door will be invitation enough for your dog to poke his inquisitive nose through. When he does so slam the door shut. Of course make sure that his snout does not get trapped in the door. The loud thud will startle him into jumping backwards.

Go through this exercise a few more times. Soon your dog will learn that he must not try to push past you when the door opens. He will learn to stand quietly by your side and the door opens and you go out first. By now he would have learnt that pushing past you does not fetch him appropriate rewards.