



When Dogs Talk™

## House Training Bells

By Sarah Hodgson



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## House Training Bells

The first thing you'll notice when you walk into my house—aside from the dangerously wide sweep of my dogs' wagging tails—are the bells. I have bells on both sides of the door to the backyard and bells by their bowls. Installed so that they can ring them easily, the bells tell me when they need to go in or out and let me know when the water dish needs a refill.



Use a sturdy thumb tack or small nail to hang your bells next to the door. Hang them high enough so that your dog can give them a good swing with his nose or paw. Don't hang your bells on the door or they will ring every time you use the door.

### Handy Houstraining Tip #1:

Dogs prefer to leave their living area to eliminate. While they don't need fancy tile or a magazine rack, they do benefit from a designated and consistently used "potty area."

## Using The Bells For House Training

1. Follow one route—the same way each time if at all possible—through your home to your potty area. Direct your dog by saying "Outside."



2. Approach the door bell and tap it lightly with your hand each time you go outside.
3. Lead your dog to his designated potty area.
4. This is potty time: don't pet or play with your dog or wander around the yard until your dog completes the mission. When he starts to

Handy Houstraining Tip #2:

Different dogs will have control at 10 weeks, while other dogs won't be reliable until 6 months. Most fall somewhere in between. Please be patient!



After one week your dog should be making the connection between the ringing bell and heading outside. If he's not nosing or nudging the bells yet, make them a bit more tempting. Dab a bit of peanut butter or yogurt on the bell. Bring him up to the bell and stop. If he licks it, immediately head out the door. If he's distracted, show him the gooey spot, wait until he gives it a lick then march smartly out the door.



### Handy Housetraining Tip #3:

Young dogs need to go out more often than older dogs. Take your pup out after crating or stationing. The urge may hit quickly after playing, chewing, eating or drinking, and after a long nap, too. Confine a young dog in one room until he's mastered the art of leaving the room to potty.

## Ding Dong! Your Dog Is Calling!

Hang a bell on the outside of the door and teach your dog to ring it to come in. Again, hang the bell next to the door, not on the door.

Use the same technique described above but this time, tap the bell with your fingers and say "Inside" each time you come in.

If your property is fenced and your dog is outside alone, ignore other attention-getting behaviors like barking. Wait for the bell and respond immediately.



Hint: If your dog scratches the door, protect it with cardboard. Encourage your dog to ring the bell. Develop this skill with the peanut butter/yogurt trick described above.



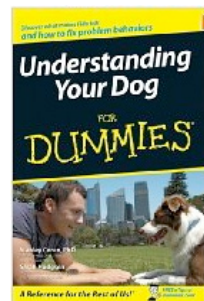
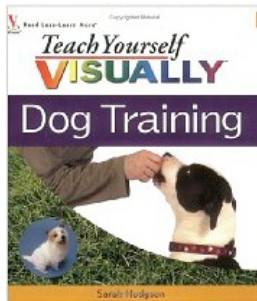
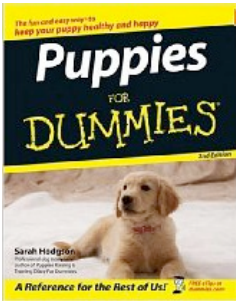
## Chow Time!

I've got two children and the Chow Bell system reminds and—dare I say it—encourages them to feed the dogs and check their water.



Hang the bell conveniently close to your dog's water and food bowls. Gently tap the bells each time pick up the bowls for a filling. In time, your dog will learn to ring for table service.

For more information on housetraining, basic manners, problem solving and all-around dog behavior improvement, visit the [WhenDogsTalk.com](http://WhenDogsTalk.com) bookstore.



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