



APPLE GROVE
VETERINARY CARE
Small & Large Animal Medicine and Surgery

POTTY BELLS TRAINING METHOD

NO more accidents in the house!

As with any training method, results depend on the consistency and effort put into training your dog. The Potty Bells Training method is based on the Pavlov's Theory that one form of learning is a result of repeated stimulus.

By ringing the bells each and every time the dog is to go outside (creating a stimulus), your dog will learn to associate the stimulus of the bells with the ability to go outside. No dog is too old to learn this behavior.

Step 1 - Hang the loop of the Potty Bells on the inside doorknob of the door(s) that your dog typically exits the house. Potty Bells are made to accommodate both small and large breeds. Your dog only needs to nudge any part of the Potty Bells unit in order to make the bells ring. Potty Bells should stay on the door or on a small hook next to the door at all times so that your dog can access them whenever they need to.

Step 2 - Every time you take your pooch outside to potty, state a simple command phrase, i.e. *"Outside...ring the bells"*. Get your family involved! All members of your household should be consistent and use the same wording and actions with your dog.

Step 3 - After stating your command phrase, ring Potty Bells in front of the dog. The dog should see & hear the bells.

Step 4 - After ringing the bells and saying your command, follow through with positive praise and allow your dog to go outside. It is important that you NOT reward your dog with a food treat, as they will associate the ringing the bells with receiving food. We suggest that you not use potty time to play with your dog outside so they don't associate ring time with playtime. You can always take your dog outside to play at other times when you choose to. The dog will eventually associate ringing the bells with going and the praise they receive from their favorite person, you, is reward enough! DO THIS EACH TIME YOUR DOG IS TO GO OUTSIDE AS CONSISTENCY IS KEY!

Step 5 - After several weeks of this conditioning, continue to say the phrase you've been using each time your dog wants to exit the house. Tell them *"Outside...ring the bells"* and point to the Potty Bells. Praise them once they ring the bells and allow the dog to go out. If the dog does NOT ring the bells, you ring the bells, restate your command phrase and then allow the dog outside.

Step 6 - Repeat this conditioning until your dog starts to ring the bells on their own. It is critical that you praise your dog on his/her newly learned behavior to reinforce this action. Remember to always listen for the bells, even if you are in a different part of the house from where you've hung your Potty Bells. When you hear them ring...let your dog out!

**Your dog can now communicate without barking,
whining or having accidents in the house!**

www.applegrovetvet.com

