

Teaching pets to use the door



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How do I teach my pet to use the pet door?

Most cats and dogs figure their new door out quickly - they are eager to get to the other side. Others may need some training. Be patient - most pets get it in a few seconds, but others are more careful and may need a week or two.

Pick a time when you can give your pet your undivided attention, and limit the length of training sessions - going on for too long can make both you and your pet frustrated.

Give incentive: it's easier to make the cat or dog go through to the side they like the most. That is, if your dog loves being outside, it's a good idea to start the training session with the dog on the inside.

Start with propping the door open. If your dog is inside, you can go outside, making sure they know you're out there, and call for them. Sound enthusiastic: coming to you should be the best thing in the world!

Put something they really want on the other side, like a yummy, stinky treat. For dogs, the smellier the better, and small pieces of cheese or meat usually does the trick.



Reward any progress. Use only positive reinforcement - you don't want your pet to get a negative impression of the door.

Be patient and cheerful. Trying to force your pet through - or babying them - is a sure way to enforce any fear of the door.

Cats can be extremely suspicious of anything new. If you have a cat unwilling to try their new door, try adding their scent to it. A new cat door smells new and alien, and their own scent may make them more inclined to trust it.

Rub your cat with a towel or a cloth, and rub off on the door.

If you have an electronic pet door, the dog or cat might be eager to go through as long as it's propped open, but not understand how to

make it open when it's closed. Most automatic doors require the pet to be close to unlock and open. Try putting a sticky treat on the door frame.

Pets are individuals, just like humans. Some cats and dogs will love their new door at first sight, others need a little longer. Keep trying, and remember to give praise - it will help your pet think the door is the best thing ever.

Don't hesitate to call us at 800-749-9609 if you need assistance.





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