

Ring Me)



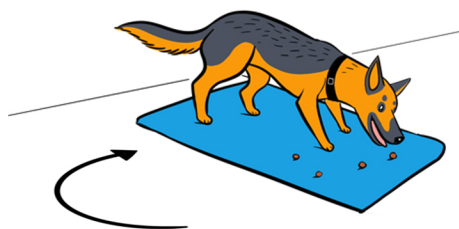
"Ring Me" sends a heads up to dogs that their environment is about to change, and the change is good.



Many dogs **startle** at the sudden entry of a visitor. Dogs can "alert" bark, sounding a lower and deeper bark than usual. Their bodies are rigid. Sometimes dogs move towards a visitor, sometimes they recoil away from the door.



Each time a dog becomes agitated or frightened, though, arousal chemicals surge through the brain and bloodstream. **A dog's response to these hormones strengthens with each occurrence.** *The best predictor of future behavior is past behavior!*



Ringling bells attached to a plastic snack jar lets a dog know a visitor is waiting outside, entering is at hand, and food will be gently sprinkled onto a mat placed away from the door.

A positive conditioned response to bells results in higher-pitched barking, curvy body, wiggly tails, and eventually moving to the mat if rewards are consistently tossed there. Dogs are individuals, so look for your dog's happy signals.

Give the JINGLE JAR Meaning:

1. Shake the snack jar. Pause.
2. Open the snack jar.
3. Remove a few pieces of food and gently flick on the mat away from the door.
Repeat several times.

Practice 5 times per day (parents & visitors):

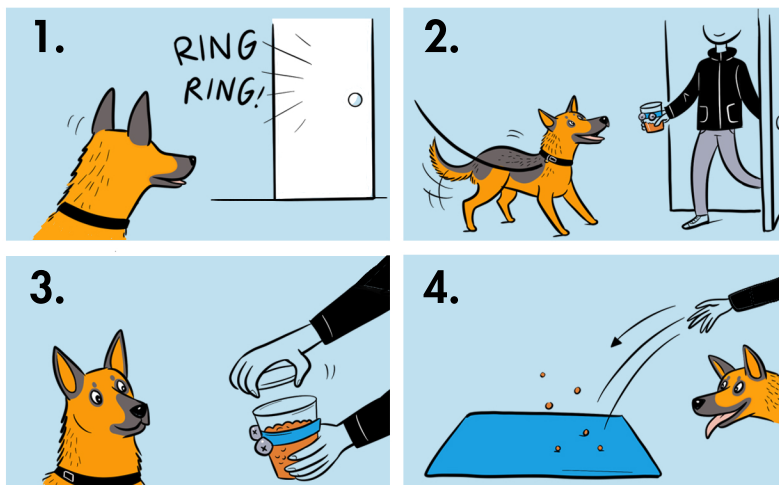
1. Advise visitor to JINGLE outside the door.
2. When your dog shows "happy" signals, instruct visitor to enter. *
3. Open the snack jar.
4. Remove the food, gently flick on the mat.

* Until the "happy" response and moving to the mat is routine, keep your dog leashed around visitors inside.

2 jingle bell
wristbands
(sold as toys)

plastic jar with lid
eg, deli container
with delicious treats

sticky double-
sided strip
VELCRO® brand
hook & loop
fastener



Thank you to Dr. E. Kathryn Meyer, VMD, for introducing us to this exercise.
If your dog has shown aggression towards visitors, consult a veterinarian or veterinary behaviorist.