Door Dashing: Preventing Door Dashing and Training Alternative Behaviors



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Keeping your dog safe and well-behaved around open doors can be a breeze with the right techniques! Here's a comprehensive guide to prevent door dashing and train your pup to perform alternative behaviors while guests arrive. 🌟

Step 1: Exercise First

A tired dog is a well-behaved dog! Always exercise your dog before any training session. A good walk or play session helps burn off excess energy and makes it easier for your pup to focus. 🏃‍♂️🎾

Step 2: Use a Leash

Always use a leash during training. This helps you maintain control and ensures your dog stays safe while learning. 🐕

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Training Options

Option 1: Station on a Mat

1. Choose a Mat: Pick a comfortable mat or bed that your dog likes.
2. Introduce the Mat: Encourage your dog to go to the mat by luring them with treats. When they step on it, reward them with a treat.
3. Add a Cue: Once your dog is comfortable on the mat, add a cue like "Go to your mat." Reward them every time they comply.
4. Practice with Distractions: Gradually increase distractions, like opening the door. Reward your dog for staying on the mat.
5. Increase Duration: Slowly extend the time your dog stays on the mat while you open the door and greet guests. 🛏️🍬

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Option 2: Sit and Stay

1. Teach Sit and Stay: Ensure your dog knows the "Sit" and "Stay" cues.
2. Practice at the Door: Have your dog sit and stay a few feet away from the door. Gradually move closer to the door over time. Be sure to use a leash during this training.
3. Open the Door: Slowly open the door a little, and reward your dog for staying put. Increase the door opening gradually.
4. Greet Guests: Practice with a friend or family member. Have them ring the doorbell, and reward your dog for sitting and staying while you open the door. 🪑🛑

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Option 3: Target a Specific Area

1. Choose an Area: Like a carpeted section versus tile in the foyer.
2. Introduce the Area: Use treats to lure your dog to the target area and reward them for staying there.
3. Add a Cue: Introduce a cue like "Go to your spot." Reward your dog when they follow the cue.
4. Practice with the Door: Gradually add the distraction of the door opening. Reward your dog for staying in the target area. Use a leash during this training.
5. Increase Duration and Distractions: Extend the time and distractions while your dog stays in the designated area.

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Step 3: Consistency is Key

Practice these methods regularly to reinforce good behavior. Be consistent with cues and rewards.

Step 4: Management

If you're not actively training, use management tools like baby gates, leashes, or safe rooms to prevent door dashing. These tools keep your dog secure and prevent failure. 🛡️🚧

Step 5: Monitor Your Progress

Only consider removing the leash during training if you're absolutely confident that your dog will follow your cues—so confident you'd bet $1,000 on it! Otherwise, keep the leash on for safety. 🤑🎓

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By following this guide, you can prevent door dashing and teach your dog to stay in a designated area when guests arrive. With patience, consistency, and a little effort, you'll have a well-mannered pup in no time. Happy training! 🐾✨

If you need more help we are here for you, contact us at LoveDogs@CourteousCanine.com or visit CourteousCanine.com.

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