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DOORWAY MANNERS

Teaching your dog not to go through an open doorway without permission not only helps establish leadership in the home, but could also save your dog's life by preventing him from bolting and ultimately getting lost or possibly even killed as a result of getting hit by a car.

In this exercise, we teach the door to train your dog! Since every dog has to pass through many doorways, this will give even the busiest of people many opportunities to train their dogs. Since dogs do not generalize, though, you will need to teach this to your dog on *all* doors leading outside.

Always begin teaching this with your dog on the leash. Do **not** put your dog in a sit or stay. We want to teach the dog that it doesn't have to obey a command or be in a specific posture not to run through a door.

(Ultimately, you *do* want your dog to sit and wait to go out for a walk, but the purpose of this exercise is to teach your dog under unplanned circumstances).

TRAINING SEQUENCE:

- Approach closed door
- Place your hand on the knob and open *very slightly*
- Quickly close the door as soon as your dog *makes even the slightest forward movement*
- Repeat this sequence as many times as necessary until your dog does not make any forward movement when the door is open.
- Gradually open the door further each time, but continue to close it very quickly as soon as the dog makes any forward movement toward the door.
- Once the dog stops making any forward movement when the door opens, open the door further, walk through **FIRST**, tell your dog "okay" and allow it to walk through as well.
- Your goal is to be able to open the door all the way while your dog waits patiently until given permission to go through.

Practice the exercise every time you let your dog outdoors. It will not be effective if you make your dog wait at some doors and not others, or wait sometimes, but not at other times. Your dog should learn to wait for permission before going through an open door EVERY TIME he is allowed outside.

