



Kennel Exit Protocol

Our dogs are generally pretty excited to get out of their kennels, which, while understandable, can also make our jobs a little more difficult. While the impulse is often to hurry up and get the dog out, a little patience can go a long way to create better patterns of behavior among our resident dogs and making sure that we have control over the situation as we bring dogs through the kennel.

Protocol

1. Approach the kennel with the leash ready to be looped over the dogs head.
2. Unlatch the kennel and be prepared to block the dog's exit with your leg. Wait patiently and quietly for the dog to calm down. Avoid fidgeting, and try not to get frustrated.
3. If the dog starts jumping, close the door. You don't need to latch it, just make sure the dog can't push past you.
4. As soon as the dog has all four feet on the ground, loop the leash over his head and allow him to exit the kennel. If he hops back up, close the door and wait until he's on the ground again.
5. **Do not exit the kennel with the dog unless he keeps all four feet on the ground!** If you need to, walk away and return later to give it another try, following the same procedure.
6. Upon re-entry of the kennel, toss a few treats on the floor so that the dog has to "find it." This will make taking the leash off easier as well as create positive associations between the dog and his kennel.

Thank you!