

My dog is terrible when people come to the door. She would never bite, but she barks a lot and then once the person is inside, she is very happy and excited and jumps up on them. Nothing I have tried helps. What can I do?

First, you should consider why she is acting this way. The front door is the entrance to your dog's indoor territory. Most dogs have some territorial or protective instinct and bark because they know from past experience that a knock on the door or ring of a door bell means someone is about to invade their territory. They also may bark and get excited because they have seen you respond by dropping whatever you're doing and maybe yelling out to the person that you'll be right there as you immediately go to the door. Your dog is taking your lead to also get to the door and show her enthusiasm. Things may only get worse if you try to correct her by yelling at her to be quiet. To her this means you are barking along with her.

A training program can avoid this front door mayhem. First begin with your dog on lead and enlist the help of a friend or neighbor. Have the person knock on the door while you have your dog sit inside the house for a delicious treat. Once she is more interested in the treat and sitting nicely, have your friend come in. If your dog jumps up to greet her, tell your friend to ignore her, maybe even turn around in the other direction. Have your dog sit nicely again for a treat and have your friend pet her only when she is seated. Try to do this several times during a training session.

These arranged front door exercises should help the next time an unplanned visitor comes to the door. Have her sit until you give the signal that it is okay to get up. If you are not having success, another option is to purchase a remotely activated treat delivery system. You can train your dog with the device to go to a specific spot away from the door to get a treat when the doorbell rings.

It will take time and patience, but having a well-mannered dog at the door is worth the effort.

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