



By John Gilpatrick It's hard to find a house without stairs. Whether you have a large split-level home or a simple one-story ranch with a porch, if you're a dog owner, you hold your breath for a second whenever your pup bounds up or down the steps. And for good reason. "Stair-related injuries can range from muscle strains and bruises to fractures, head injuries, and even death," says Dr. Courtney Arnoldy, founder of the Small Animal Rehabilitation Program at University of Wisconsin Veterinary Care. Luckily, many dogs are naturally equipped to ascend and descend a staircase, according to Dr. Jonathan Wood, staff clinician in neurology at the University of Veterinary Care. Medicine. "Most animals learn early on how to navigate stairs," he says. "They have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a willingness to learn because they want to follow around their mother or their owner, and they have a drive to do so and a will be a drive to do so and a will be a drive to do so and a will be a drive to do so and a will be a drive to do so Hounds, and Corgis) tend to have trouble around stairs, Arnoldy says. It's important for owners to do what they can to set up their canine companions for success. Here are five stair safety tips for dogs that every pet parent should know and follow. Supervise Your Dog Simply watching your dog go up and down the stairs won't prevent an accident, but it will keep them safe from other potential health problems or conditions that could be even more serious. Wood says he uses stairs as a tool to diagnose various problems. "Owners tend to blame stairs for a dog's inability or difficulty in getting around," he says, "but usually, whatever is afflicting them is only making itself apparent when the dog uses the stairs." Dogs with orthopedic problems—including hips, knees, and hind legs—will have no trouble going down stairs but will show reluctance, struggle, or bunny hop their way back up, Wood says. When the reverse is true—no problem ascending, but showing unwillingness or pain while descending—the issue is usually with the dog's elbows or shoulders. Neurological issues look a little different. "Dogs with spine, neck, disc, and back problems find it painful to lift or lower their head when they go up or down stairs," Wood says. "They might also struggle on stairs if they have vestibular disease, which affects balance. You might notice this if your dog hugs the wall while on stairs. They use it as support to help steady themselves." Simply watching your dog on the stairs will help you catch any of these problems—hopefully before a fall or before they become too serious. If you notice any of these scenarios, make an appointment with your vet as soon as possible. Assuming your dog is using the stairs normally and you simply want to help prevent falls and other issues, better lighting is an extremely simple way to improve visibility and let your dog's natural cautiousness kick in. "Dark areas can be a safety risk for all dogs, especially those with depth perception, weakness, balance challenges with depth perception, weakness, balance challenges, or limited mobility," Arnoldy says. While hardwood floors are an increasingly popular home design choice, Arnoldy says carpeted stairs or runners will provide good footing and reduce the risk of your dog slipping. Those without carpeting can try putting grips on their dog's toes, Wood adds. "They look like little rubber bands that go over the toenail and provide traction," he says. "Most dogs won't wear boots or shoes. A toe grip is a happy medium that they usually tolerate." While dog ramps aren't practical for long flights of stairs, they might be useful if you have a couple of steps up to your porch or between rooms. Arnoldy says a non-slip ramp could be a good alternative for dogs who simply can't do stairs anymore. If you pursue this option, you may need to train your dog so he navigates the ramp with care and confidence, Arnoldy adds. "Promote a slow pace by using positive reinforcement and a leash, harness, or sling," she says, "and only use a ramp as tolerated." Smaller dogs who can't make it up steps, dogs who recently had surgery, or dogs who are on medications with sedative effects can be carried, so long as it's safe for both the dog and the owner. For bigger dogs who can't be carried up and down repeatedly, it's best to avoid the stairs when you're not home or when you will be on a different floor than the dog for an extended period. When necessary, an appropriately placed sling or long towel (either under the belly or chest) can be used to help guide a larger dog, but only as directed by a veterinarian. If you're a dog owner, you probably want your pet to be as safe and comfortable in your home as possible. Sometimes, that requires making the space they live in safer for them. If your house or apartment has wooden stairs, you surely know how dangerous they can get for your pooch. From slipping due to its nails to having a hard time going up and down due to the nature of the wood itself — your dog can truly find it hard to navigate stairs. With time, having a hard time going up and down due to the nature of the wood itself — your dog can truly find it hard to navigate stairs. may become a difficult feat for your pup, and on top of that, it may prove to be dangerous. Slipping and falling down the stairs can lead to serious injuries, so keep reading to see what you can do to prevent that. Generally speaking, stairs don't pose an issue for every dog. However, some dogs fear them. If you recognize this in your pup, work with them, reward them when they go up or down, and encourage them as much as you can. That will help them get over their fear quicker. Sometimes, using stairs might also cause discomfort (especially for dogs who suffer from arthritis), and your dog may decide to relocate downstairs. Should this happen with elderly dogs, respect their decision. They know their limits, so never force your dog to use the stairs if they don't want to. As dogs age, their joints get weaker, and hip-related problems are quite common in certain breeds, such as: RottweilersGolden RetrieversGerman ShepherdsNewfoundlands, etc. Apart from this, with age, their joints get weaker, and hip-related problems are quite common in certain breeds, such as: RottweilersGolden RetrieversGerman ShepherdsNewfoundlands, etc. body won't be as flexible as before. At that point, climbing up or going down the stairs will be a huge difficulty. However, even the healthiest pup can slip and fall if the stairs themselves are slippery. Not only is that a highly traumatic experience, but it can also lead to very nasty injuries (such as spine injuries). Preventing that won't take too much of your time or money, and it'll mean the world to your furry friend. Your dog may be struggling with going up and down the staircase itself might not be the problem. Your pet may have a medical issue you're unaware of, so having a full checkup should be the first step. Possible medical issue you're unaware of a contract of the staircase itself might not be the problem. Your pet may have a medical issue you're unaware of a contract of the staircase itself might not be the staircase itself might not be the staircase itself might not be the problem. problemsPoor eyesightBack problems An important thing to keep in mind is that dogs often tend to power through the pain and discomfort, unlike most people, so you'll need to pay close attention. Should you notice that your dog slips on the stairs or its legs seem wobbly, the vet is the best place to go. Also, all of the above doesn't happen only to elderly dogs, and even if your pup is in its prime, the best thing to do is to rule out health problems. Trimming your dog's nails regularly is quite useful because that prevents the nails from getting caught on different things, stairs included. This is especially important for dogs who don't spend enough time walking on the pavement, which is a "natural" file for dogs' nails. In addition, long nails prevent your dog from having a firm stance. Thus, trimming your pet's nails is essential for its safety. If you don't know how, or are uncomfortable with trimming the nails, any vet or groomer will gladly do it for you. In fact, it might be best that they do it, as they will ensure it is done safely. There is another thing you should pay close attention to. If your dog is fluffy, chances are there's a lot of fuzz on the pads of your dog's paws. As you may have guessed, that doesn't make using the stairs easier. Regularly trimming the excess hair will definitely make your dog feel more stable. Stair treads are a wonderful invention for those with dogs and stairs. You can install them both inside and outside, and they're easily removable when it's cleaning time. They work in various weather conditions, even if it's rainy or cold out, so you won't have to worry your dog won't slip. Stair treads provide a good grip for your dog and add more traction, which means more stability. They are of great help to energetic pups or those struggling with grip and balance. For more information check the video below: Ramps can come in handy in case you have up to five stairs your dog needs to climb. Ramps are far more friendly for your dog's hips and spine, especially if you have an elderly dog. Another good thing about ramps is that once your dog is where they need to be, you can remove it. Of course, if you have a wide staircase, you can keep the ramp in place permanently. Still, this solution can only work if your staircase is made of a few stairs. Toegrips usually go directly on your dog's toenails. Once you put them on, they will provide more traction, which will make climbing the stairs much easier. There's a variety of colors and styles you can choose from. As such, you can even have your pup look all fancy, like they got a pedicure! It's important to note that a lot of dogs aren't exactly thrilled to wear toegrips. If your dog doesn't like their paws or nails touched, this might not be the best solution. Never do anything that makes your pet uncomfortable. It will only result in more pain and discomfort for them, and that's never a good solution. Depth perception in humans is estimated to be 140 degrees. On the other hand, in dogs it's only 30-60 degrees. Because of this, dogs may find stairs scarier than we do. Additionally, their age may make it harder to see in the dark. Unsurprisingly, people also don't enjoy using stairs if they can't see them properly. If you need to let your dog out during the night, you can improve visibility, thus reducing their chances of slipping and falling. The cheapest solution is placing some duct tape on each step. Make sure the color of the tape is bright, preferably yellow. Another way to improve visibility is to simply leave the lights on. Larger aging dogs often experience joint problems (mostly hips), and stairs are a difficult obstacle for them in such cases. If their hind legs aren't strong enough, they will easily slip and fall. A dog sling is a great invention to decrease the stress on the lower part of your dog's body. It will also help the pup psychologically, as they'll feel safer when going up or down the stairs. You can even make one yourself! This one is not an ideal solution as it might prove tricky for you. However, if all else fails and your pooch cannot deal with the staircase on their own, carry them up and down. Of course, this is only possible with smaller breeds and puppies. Some dogs don't like being carried, which is when a travel kennel is a safe space, they'll happily pop in and out of it whenever needed. We all want what is best for our dogs, and it's our responsibility to keep them safe and healthy. If you notice your dog is struggling with the stairs at home, do what needs to be done before an accident happens. These solutions are great on their own, but you can also combine a few of them. In addition, you can think of something entirely new that will work best for your fourlegged friend. As long as it is happy and safe, the type of solution doesn't matter. How can you make stairs easier for dogs. How to Make Stairs Easier for Dogs It easier for dogs is to use a dog ramp. Adding carpet to stairs for Dogs It easier for dogs. is disturbing to see your dog struggle up the stairs. This can be a worrying problem. No pet parent wants to see his dog struggle going up or down the stairs? Depending on your dog's health and age, the kind of stairs that need to be navigated, and other variables, not all these solutions will work for you. we'll explore each of them in more detail so that you can decide which will work best for you. Let's get started! Some of the links in this post are affiliate, and we may earn a commission. Related Reading: Stairs vs Ramps for Dogs, Which One Is Best? Installing a ramp in your house might signal the end of watching your doggie struggling to go up or down the stairs, especially if you have a short staircase. Pet ramps often feature a non-slippery surface that prevents dogs from sliding back down. This helps them climb or go down the stairs, especially if you have a short staircase. of falling off. If you have wide stairs, you can allow the ramp to remain permanently over that position of the stairs, but if your stairs are not wide enough to keep other space, you should remove the ramp after use. This means you have to monitor your dog and put up the ramp whenever it is required. "While dog ramps aren't practical for long flights of stairs, they might be useful if you have a couple of steps up to your porch or between rooms." Source: John Gilpatrick at PetMD Although there are plenty of dog ramps available, most are designed to be used outdoors, to help a dog climb in and out of trucks and SUVs. If you want something that looks less "industrial," we recommend these two products: Pet Gear Travel Lite Ramp: It is fairly lightweight which lets pet parents travel with it easily. It's also packed with unique features for excellent traction and other functions. You can also choose various lengths and widths with this ramp. It has raised edges that help prevent your doggie from slipping or falling off the sides. What's really great is that it can support up to 200lbs., although it is not recommended that humans use it (just in case you were getting some ideas). Some pet parents found that this ramp wasn't as sturdy as they would have liked. So a word of caution is that it may be a bit too lightweight for your doggie. Trixie Ramp, 3-Way & Foldable: I like the triple-folding feature, which makes it easier to transport and store. It also has a TPR surface which prevents slippage even during a rainy day. And if you have an active doggie this ramp is pretty easy to clean. Just hose it down in the backyard and that should take care of it. Another word of caution: some pet parents found this ramp a bit too soft for their bigger dogs. If you have linoleum, tile, or hardwood steps, there is a high chance that your dog falls off or struggles to use the stairs often. This is because these materials have slippery surfaces that your dog can't always prepare for. So, in this case, getting a carpet can help you evade the stress on your dog—by covering it on the steps to rid the slippery surface. With this, even if your dog is scampering up and down at high speed, it reduces the chances of sliding off the steps. You can either have the entire stairs carpeted or have a carpenter install carpet runners. If you don't want to cover your stairs up with a carpet, you can opt for non-slip stair treads. This also helps your dog get traction on the stairs. There are many options for attractive anti-slip stairs in an area with less visibility, you want to consider improving the visibility of the area. Your dog lying in stairs If you have your stairs in an area with less visibility, you want to consider improving the visibility. can possibly fall off if he can't see the stairs. Improving the visibility of your stairs are located in a slightly dark area, you should light up the place. More so, some dogs have poor eyesight. If your dog is one, you should light up the place. More so, some dogs have poor eyesight. poor eyesight, you can consider getting tape that will make it easier for your dog to see individual treads. I recommend Teegan Tapes Anti-Slip Tape (opens new Amazon tab) because the white strips improve visibility and the tape also provides improved traction. Sometimes you might not have any other choice except to carry your dog up some stairs, especially if your dog is not capable of going upstairs due to advanced age or other mobility issues. When a dog climbs stairs, its body weight is placed on its hindquarters, which means a dog with joint or ligament problems will find going up and down stairs painful. And as a result, your canine friend may want to avoid using the stairs. Luckily, you can help this situation by using a dog's sling. This supports the dog's back and keeps weight off the inflamed hips and joints when using the stairs. "For bigger dogs who can't be carried up and down repeatedly, it's best to avoid the stairs when possible. Make sure everything your dog needs and enjoys is located on the main floor of your house. Block off the stairs when you're not home or when you will be on a different floor than the dog for an extended period." Source: John Gilpatrick at PetMD Also, if you have a puppy, you should keep carrying him until he gets fully matured. Allowing your puppy to use the stairs—which involves running up and down the stairs, can result in stunted growth, as this damages the puppy's growth plates. If your dog is not able to use the stairs easily after trying the above tips, the problem may not be your stairs. It would be best to take your dog to a vet to have them checked out. Your dog may develop health conditions that need to be examined and treated. Dogs can develop medical issues such as: Hip and hind leg problems Arthritis Nerves impairment Joint issues, etc. Such health conditions can halt a dog's mobility, making it difficult to go up or down the stairs can help you detect your dog's health condition. Don't make the mistake of putting the blame on your stairs while you keep on looking for other means to help your dog without seeking medical help. Watch your dog is struggling on the stairs: Going up: If he hobbles while going up the stairs, this might mean a sign of a hip problem. Coming down: If your dog stumbles down the stairs, this suggests a joint problem. Hugging the wall: This is a sign of vestibular disease. It affects the dog's balance. If you notice any of these signs, quickly see a vet to have your canine friend diagnosed and treated. As you can see, helping your dog navigate the stairs easily is not a very difficult task, as some may think. However, it involves following the right steps and considering your dog's health. Ensure your dog is healthy while exploring other means of helping them use the stairs safely. If you notice any sign of difficulty even when you have a carpet or ramp, you should immediately seek medical intervention from a qualified veterinarian. Over 4,000 people are searching online for 'dog gate for stairs' a month which highlights that dog stair safety is a cause for concern amongst many dog owners. If your dog often rushes downstairs at breakfast time, or to greet you when you return home from work, you might have seen them slip and tumble a few times. Or, if your dog has started to get a bit older and less agile, they might be struggling with the stairs they used to whizz up and down. So, you might be looking for some ways in which you can make your staircase a bit easier to navigate for your four-legged friends. Here, Nick Acaster, Managing Director of staircase accessories retailer Stair Rods Direct, explains how you can make your staircase accessories retailer Stair Rods. try to take off running on laminate flooring, you'll know they can often struggle to get enough grip on the surface. The same can happen with your stairs so, if you frequently see your dog fall down the stairs, could it be because the surface is just too slippery? While wooden staircases can be very stylish, they can make life more difficult for dogs and puppies, so it might be time to compromise. A stair runner is perfect for this, as it will give your pup more purchase down the centre of your staircase, but the wooden edges of each step will still be exposed. You can even add some metal stair rods as decoration, as long as you're confident these won't affect your dog's ability to travel up and won the stairs safely. A fully carpeted staircase can also look great, and is likely to be the simplest option if your downstairs or upstairs hallways already have this type of flooring. Make sure you ever tried to walk down your stairs in the dark? Well, your dog's vision is actually likely to be a lot worse than yours (Eyesite), which means a dark or poorly-lit staircase can be even more dangerous for them. So, it's worth looking into whether this area of your staircase's flooring, it's also worth opting for a runner or carpet in a lighter colour, which will help the edge of each step to stand out a bit better. Or, if you already have light flooring and your dog is still struggling, consider adding a strip of bright tape to the end of each step, just for a while. This will show them exactly where they need to step, and they'll get used to it after a couple of weeks. Install a baby gate if you're particularly concerned about your dog getting injured while navigating your stairs — perhaps they're getting quite old or they've had some nasty falls in the past — installing a gate might be the only option. This will prevent them from running up and down the stairs unsupervised and will mean that you can simply carry them up and down your stairway when necessary. Having a baby gate in place should also help to give you some peace of mind when you're out of the house. You won't have to worry about your dog take a few tumbles down the stairs, or you're worried about it happening, the advice in this article should help. Take these tips onboard to keep your pup safe and put your mind at ease. If your dog is having difficulty navigating stairs, it is best to consult with your veterinarian to see if there is a medical reason for this and to get advice on the best course of action. Many dog owners are faced with the question of whether or not stairs are bad for their furry friends. While it is true that some dogs may have trouble navigating stairs, there are many who do just fine. It is up to the owner to decide what is best for their dog. If your dog seems uncomfortable or struggles to go up and down stairs, it may be best to avoid them altogether. If your dog loves chasing a ball up and down the stairs, then by all means let them play! The answer may depend on your dog is healthy and doesn't have any existing joint issues, then running up and down stairs probably won't cause any harm. Some experts believe that moderate exercise like stair-running can actually be beneficial for dogs' overall health. Of course, you should always consult with your veterinarian before making any decisions about your dog's exercise routine. They will be able to give you specific advice based on your dog's individual health needs. There are several reasons why dogs should not be allowed to climb stairs. For one, it can be dangerous for them. They could fall and hurt themselves, or even worse, break a bone. Additionally, their nails can get caught on the stairs, which can lead to injury. Finally, if they are not properly trained to do so, they could fall and hurt themselves, or even worse, break a bone. stairs, which would be very difficult to clean up. There is no definitive answer when it comes to which dogs should not climb stairs. Some factors that may contribute to a dog not being able to or should not climb stairs. Some factors that may contribute to a dog not being able to or should not climb stairs. climbing stairs due to their short legs. Older dogs may also find it harder to maneuver up and down stairs because of arthritis or other age-related issues. Breeds that are particularly large and heavy breeds like Newfoundlands and Saint Bernard's may have trouble with stairs because of their size and weight. And finally, any dog with existing health oblems such as hip dysplasia or joint pain may find it painful or difficult to climb stairs. If you're unsure whether your dog should avoid stairs for at least two weeks after surgery, or until their stitches are removed. This is to prevent them their incisions. If your dog has an ice pack on their incision, it will need to stay off the stairs even longer. If your dog has arthritis, you may be wondering if stairs are bad for them. The answer is that it depends on the severity of your dog has arthritis and how much pain they are in. If your dog is in a lot of pain, then stairs may be too difficult for them to manage. However, if their arthritis is not severe, then they should be able to handle stairs just fine. Just make sure to go slowly and give them plenty of breaks if they need it. As a dog owner, you may be wondering if stairs are bad for your dog's joints. The answer is that it depends on your individual dog. If your dog is healthy and has no joint problems, then stairs should not pose a problem. However, if your dog does have joint issues, then stairs may exacerbate the condition and cause pain. If you are unsure whether stairs are appropriate for your dog, consult with your veterinarian to get the best advice for your pet. If you have a dog, then you know that they love to run and play. But if you have open stairs in your home, then you might be worried about them getting hurt. Here are some tips on how to make open stairs and potentially fall down them. Put up some warning signs. If you have young children in your home, then they might not realize that the stairs are dangerous for dogs. By putting up some warning signs, you can help keep everyone safe. Get a pet ramp or set of steps can help them safely get up and down the stairs without any risk of injury. No, stairs are not bad for dogs. They can be very good for them! Dogs who live in homes with stairs provides a great workout for your pup's heart and lungs. When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn a commission. Here's how it works.Image credit: Charlotte Lehman, ShutterstockIf you're wondering what is Barn Hunt for dogs, you've come to the right place. This exciting dog sport has been around for years, but not only is it becoming increasingly popular in the U.S., but Barn Hunt clubs are opening across the globe. Barn Hunt is where any dog can safely sniff for, or "hunt," live rats in a barn-like setting. It's super fun, great for mental stimulation, and helps you bond with your dog. So, let's learn more about Barn Hunt is all about teamwork. Your dog uses their natural instincts to find the hidden tubes that contain rats within a set time. It tests their nose, speed, agility, and surefootedness. And you have to read your dog's signals to know when they have found the tube and tell the judge. In addition to the live rats, decoy tubes are hidden around a straw bale course that mimics a barn setting. Except for the first level, there is at least one tunnel and various bale heights that your dog should climb through and onto at least once. Barn Hunt is based on the hunting and teamwork skills that traditional rat catchers used a vital role as it protects property from invasion, and protects cattle and people from disease. Traditionally, rat catchers used a variety of terriers and smaller breeds that can go underground after the prey. Until the creation of Barn Hunt, there had never been an officially licensed test that simulated this important and skillful task. Watch this short video about Barn Hunt is and how fun it can be. History Of Barn HuntingThe founder of the Barn Hunt sport, Robin Nuttall, has a long career in animal science and dog sports. It all started in 2006 when Nuttall's dog Zipper showed a fantastic hunt drive but could not compete in the American Kennel Club's earth dog trials because Min Pins were not an eligible breed then. Zipper is an all-red Miniature Pinscher and many have an exceptional hunt drive. Inspired by Zipper, Robin created the Barn Hunt Association. The Barn Hunt Association (BHA) is an independent organization. Nuttall runs the BHA and outlines all the rules regarding titles and the varying levels surrounding the sport. Like any canine club, they list news, updates, club details, and events calendars. They also list Barn Hunt national results and a contact page. It's the one-stop shop for all things Barn Hunt. Although the BHA is independent, the American Kennel Club (CKC), and the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) recognize the titles. Barn Hunt is a sport where your dog can achieve various titles according to their success. As you progress in Barn Hunt, the levels become increasingly challenging with more complex tunnels and decoy tubes. Novice, open, senior, and master levels are split into A and B divisions that allow participants to hone their skills while working towards a new accreditation. Here are the Barn Hunt levels and what each one entails. Instinct is a one-minute round with a straight tunnel that is optional for your dog. In the ring, there is a wooden cradle in the open, which contains the live rat. Your dog needs to sniff out the wooden cradle in the open, which contains the live rat. rat. Novice is a two-minute round. In this round, the three tubes are hidden among the straw bales. Like before, one is empty, one has rat litter, and one contains a live rat. Your dog and you need to identify the live rat. During their search, they must also go through the short and straight tunnel and climb on top of a straw bale with all four feet on their search, they must also go through the short and straight tunnel and climb on top of a straw bale with all four feet on their search. bale.Open is a two-and-a-half-minute round, only for dogs who have achieved the novice title. In this course, there are five hidden tubes. One is empty, two contain rat litter, and two houses a live rat. There is an eight to ten-foot-long tunnel with a 90-degree turn. In this round, your dog must pass through the tunnel, climb onto a bale with four paws down, and identify both live rats. The senior round lasts three-and-a-half minutes and is only open for dogs who have successfully achieved their open title. In this round, there are eight tubes hidden throughout the course. One is empty, three contain litter, and four contain a live rat. There is an even longer tunnel measuring 12 to 20 feet, with up to three 90-degree turns. Your dog must identify all four rats, pass through the tunnel, and climb a bale.Master is a four-and-a-half-minute round that only senior title holders can enter. This round is where things become more challenging for you and your pup. There are eight tubes, which could contain anywhere between one and five live rats. You are not told the total of live rats and must trust your dog to tell you when they've found them all. There is an even longer tunnel that must be dark. Plus, the straw bales are arranged in a trickier layout. Your dog must pass through the tunnel, climb the bales, and sniff out the correct number of rats. You must obtain five qualifying runs to achieve this title. The rules are the same for the master barn hunt level, except you must have ten qualifying runs to achieve this title. Unlike before, this level is open to all. It is a two-minute round with a senior-level tunnel, eight live rat tubes, and four litter tubes. The goal is to find as many live rats as possible. Each correctly identified rat tube is worth ten points, and a tunnel or climb a bale deducts 20 points. To achieve the Crazy 8's bronze title, you must accumulate 500 points There are many levels up from there, including silver (CZ8S), gold (CZ8G), and platinum (CZ8P), which requires the previous title and another 500 points. Image credit: Charlotte Lehman, ShutterstockThe Barn Hunt competitor rulebook is lengthy, but it's essential to read it if you're considering participating in these exciting events. Here is a summary of the main points: Most dogs aged six months or older can compete They must be able to fit through an 18-inch wide and 20 to 22-inch tall tunnel made of straw or hay bales There are three height divisions: small (measuring 15 inches and under,) medium (15.1 to 22 inches). All participants must display good sportsmanship towards their fellow competitors, judges, staff, and dogs Actions that would cause a family with young children to believe the sport is inappropriate result in disciplinary action. The only dogs ineligible to compete are wolves, wolf-hybrids, or any wolf mix, dogs with open wounds, stitches, or bandages, and lame or ill dogs Blind dogs or those with wheeled carts can only participate in line drive class, which is a more accessible courseThe best way to prepare for a Barn Hunt with your dog is to practice scent play with, such as puzzle toys and snuffle mats. There are plenty of other ways to introduce scent play into your daily routine and outdoor walks. This is a fun, introductory scent game. It only requires a few items you might already have in your home. You only need: one muffin tin 12 tennis balls Your dog's favorite treats (smelly or high-reward training treats are the best way to get them interested in the game). Put treats into a few muffin tin holes Place a tennis ball in each of the holes, being sure to cover the few treats so your dog has to use their nose to find themCheck out the BHA's event calendar to find a Barn Hunt event near you. There are many events across the country, especially on the weekend. This calendar only sometimes lists fun events or clinics as they aren't official, but BHA includes them on their calendar when possible. And if you're keen on Barn Hunt, you could start your own Barn Hunt club. It costs \$32 to register your dog with the BHA. The fee covers each dog for a lifetime, and you will receive a registration number for the licensed trials. You don't need a registration number for fun tests, fun days, or unofficial events. This fee is non-refundable and non-transferable. Each club has varying registration fees for each event, with \$25 to \$35 being the normal range. Please remember that pricing is subject to change, so it's important to check their registration rules as you apply. We know in the comments, and we'll find the answer. Almost all dogs can participate in Barn Hunt events if they are over six months old and fit through an 18-inch-wide tunnel. The BHA states that they quickly discovered that many breeds, including mixed breeds, enjoy and excel at the search. The best place to find Barn Hunt events near you is on the BHA's event calendar. No, your dog doesn't need a high prey drive to excel in Barn Hunt. There is a difference between prey drive and hunt drive. Prey drive is when a dog chases prey, acting on a visual cue. There is nothing to chase in a Barn Hunt is safe for everyone involved. The tubes contain the rats, and you never see or touch them. They're safely contained to keep your dog and the rats, called Rat Wranglers. The BHA has partnered with the U.S. Center for SafeSport to provide a safe environment for all participants. If you're looking for other ways to have fun with Fido, you can try plenty of other activities with them. We have guides on summer activities and other dog sports. Why not check out our review of SniffSpot, the Air B'n'B of dog parks? If you want to meet new canine playmates, you can also try puppy yoga, another popular sport taking over the country. Have you tried a barn hunt with your dog? Is your pup a beginner or an expert? You may be thinking about trying it, but you need some encouragement from your fellow readers. We'd love to hear about your experiences in our comments section below. Emma is the mom of two rescue dogs, Bonkers and Chips. She is keen on taking her dogs to new places and trying new activities and plans to try her Doxie, Chips, with Barn Hunt very soon. Emma is passionate about writing about dogs and sharing her professional knowledge and experience. She works with a dedicated team at Canine Journal to produce the most up-to-date and relevant dog information for their readers. When you purchase through links on our site we may earn a commission. Here's how it works. When it comes to dog's stairs are bad news. It doesn't matter if you've got a large staircase joining upstairs, or a few steps on your porch. Stairs are bad news. It doesn't matter if you've got a large staircase joining upstairs, or a few steps on your porch. Stairs are bad news. It doesn't matter if you've got a dogs with hip and joint problems, navigating a staircase can be difficult and painful.But it doesn't have to be this way.Today, I'm going to share eight tricks to keep your dog safe on the stairs - no more falls!Is your dog having stair trouble? The problem may not be your stairs.It might be your dog.Some medical issues it difficult for a dog to scale stairs:Arthritis Hip and hind leg problems Joint issues Damaged nerves Vestibular disease (affects balance) The symptoms may be invisible on flat ground. However, once your pup climbs up the stairs, they can be easily spotted.[1]It's at this stage that many owners miss the medical issue and blame the stairs instead. Don't make the same mistake. The next time your dog goes up or down the stairs, watch him closely - you may notice clues that you should take your dog to the Vet for a check-up...For example, a dog that stumbles while heading down the stairs may have joint problems and a dog that leans against the wall when ascending or descending may have a neurological issue. Don't delay in seeing a vet. If caught in the early stages, many of these medical issues are treatable or manageable – your pup will have a better life for it! Perhaps the best solution to dog-proofing your staircase is to block your dog's access to it. After all, your clumsy pup can't trip or tumble on the stairs if he can't climb them in the first place! One of the best ways to stop your dog scampering up the stairs is with a pet gate installed at the base of your staircase, it will be impossible for your dog to climb the stairs. While it may block your dog scampering up the stairs is with a pet gate. With a pet gate installed at the base of your staircase, it will be impossible for your dog to climb the stairs. While it may block your dog scampering up the stairs is with a pet gate. With a pet gate installed at the base of your staircase, it will be impossible for your dog scampering up the stairs. even automatically close behind you. This pet gate hits the sweet spot between durability and cost. An affordable solution to block stair access The exact pet gate you need will vary according to you're the design of your stairs. For example, a spiral staircase, or those of you with rounded banisters requires a different gate stairs with a wall on either side.For outdoor stairs: Those of you who want a good pet gate for your patio or deck should check out the Cardinal Gates Outdoor Safety Gate - It's weatherproof and capable of holding up to harsh Arizona summers or Florida's wet season. Are your stairs: your dog falls down the stairs. Especially if your steps are... These surfaces are slippery. Especially when your dog is scampering up and down them at speed. One miss-step and your pups foot could slide right off the step, leading to a tread on each step, and your clumsy dog will never slip down your stairs again. Place a stair-tread on each step and your dog will be as sure-footed as a mountain goat You could also use a stair runner. Essentially an extra long rug designed to run down your entire staircase, a stair runner can also give your dog some much-needed traction on a slippery staircase. I prefer stair treads as they are a considerably cheaper option.Not feeling the carpet? Check out this clear anti-slip stair tape instead. The coarse surface will give your dog traction as he scampers down the stairs. Best of all, It's almost invisible.For outdoor stairs: Grab a Rubber Stair Mat instead. Rubber mats will hold up to the harsh weather and won't slip when resting on brick or concrete steps. Feeling strong? The easiest way to get a pint-sized pup down down stairs is to carry him. With a good grip on your dog, you can help your dog skip the stairs altogether. Plus, it's a good cardio workout! If you have a wiggler or your pup doesn't play nice when being carried, you could always use a travel kennel.Simply load your dog in the kennel and shut the door. It doesn't matter how much your dog barks or wiggles, you won't drop him.Once you have carried the kennel up the stairs, open the door and let him back out.Got a larger dog? Check out our next recommendation instead...Larger dogs, like Labradors or German Shepherds, often experience hip or joint problems as they get older. Old age isn't kind to the joints. And neither are stairs, your pup places weight on his hind quarters. To put it simply, going up and down stairs hurts. In extreme cases, some dog's find climbing the stairs so painful that they avoid it altogether. Fortunately, you can help take the weight off your dog's hind legs by using a dog sling. Loop this sling around your pup, and you can support his hid quarters as he climbs the stairs. Loop the sling around your pup's rear and lift. The sling supports your dog's back-end, keeping weight off inflamed hips and joints. Your dog can now walk up your stairs without discomfort. For outdoor stairs: Grab a Solvit Carelift instead. Supporting your dog up stairs you come across on your walk becomes effortless. Got a short staircase? A pet ramp is a perfect solution to getting your dog safely up and down your stairs. While pet ramps may be designed to help dogs get in and out cars, they work exceptionally well as a stair-aid.Suitable for stairs with fewer than five steps, installation couldn't be easier - set up can be done in seconds. all you need to do is lay the ramps reduce the pressure placed on your stairs. Your dog's hips and hind legs, they are ideal for older dogs. Best of all, there is no slipping - pet ramps feature a non-slip coating to stop your pup sliding back down. This expandable ramp is the perfect size to cover your short staircase Once your dog has made it up or down the stairs, you can remove the ramp. Those of you with wide stairs can leave the ramp in place permanently. There should be enough room for you to get up the stairs without tripping over the ramp. Have you ever tried going down stairs on a pitch-black night? Not easy, right? If your dog can't see the stairs, then a fall is inevitable. Poorly lit stairs can be incredibly difficult to navigate, especially if your dog can't see the stairs, then a fall is inevitable. Poorly lit stairs can be incredibly difficult to navigate, especially if your dog can't see the stairs, then a fall is inevitable. Poorly lit stairs can be incredibly difficult to navigate, especially if your dog can't see the stairs. visibility will depend on your staircase and dog. For example, is your staircase is dimly lit and your dog is healthy? Leaving the lights on could be all that is needed. Poor eyesight can be overcome by making the steps stand out. The easiest way to do this is with duct tape. Place a strip of tape so that it folds over the edge of each step for some extra visibility. Thick tape that can be clearly seen by your dog as he climbs the stairs. Duct tape will stick to wood, vinyl and, laminate, making it suitable for most staircases. Be mindful that dogs don't see colors the same way that humans do.[2] A yellow or blue tape will be the easiest for your dog to see. Just like you can train your dog to stay out of specific rooms or stay in your yard, you can teach your dog not to go on the stairs. This is known as boundary training or invisible barrier training is entirely up to you...One particularly clever owner we spoke to during our dog doorbell review trained her dog to ring a bell for assistance. When the dog wanted to come up the patio steps, she would ring the bell and wait patiently for her owner to come and help her. How do you stop your dog from hurting himself on the staircase? Got a tip to add? Let me know in the comments below! When you purchase through links on our site, we may earn a commission Here's how it works. Are you in the process of potty training your dog? Or maybe your dog won't stop scratching at the door or barking, wanting to be let out. You need a dog doorbell! When it's time to go potty, your dog simply rings a bell so you know it's time to go potty, your dog? Or maybe your dog doorbells. We reviewed their durability, loudness, ease of installation, and their suitability for different breeds of dog. All to answer? Then read on! In our hunt to find the best, we tested and reviewed 15 dog doorbells. It was a long journey, but eventually, we narrowed down the competition to 4 top picks, each great in their own way. All homes are different, so not all dog doorbells will be ideal for you. Don't worry! I have you covered. With a recommendation for doorknobs, sliding glass doors, permanently fixed ones, and even a wireless option, I'm confident you'll find the perfect dog doorbell for your home. A durable hanging doggie doorbell made right here in the USA. Hanging OptionsDoorknobs, lever handles and hooksLength26 inchesWhen it came to doorbells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, lever handles and hooksLength26 inchesWhen it came to doorbells that hang from doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorbell over your doorknobs, no other brand came close to the PoochieBells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorbell over your doorbell over your doorbells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your doorbell over your doorbell over your doorbell over your doorbells. Simply loop this dog doorbell over your door ring - letting you know it's potty time for your dog. This is the only style of dog doorbell that isn't permanently fixed to the wall. This dog doorbell is handmade right here in the USA. As you would expect from any American made product, this door bell is of exceptional quality. The four sleigh bells that hang from the ribbon are the perfect example of this. Free from lead, these bells chime the loudest of any hanging dog doorbell we tested. No matter where I was in the house, I could clearly hear my pup alerting me that she wanted to go outside. The Poochie Bells are one of the only hanging doorbells doorbell we tested. available in a wide range of patterns and colors. From cute pink paw prints (my favorite!) to solid colors, you are bound to find something to match your décor! The typical doorknob is mounted at 36 inches from the ground. At 26 inches in length, the ribbon on the PoochieBells sits 10 inches from the floor. This was long enough that even a small puppy could reach it. Mr. Cookie, our Chihuahua tester of 8-inches tall, could easily ring the lower bells. Be mindful that if your doorknob is higher and you have a tiny pup, you might need a longer hanging dog doorbell. Measure before buying!All our testers quickly learned how to use this hanging doggy doorbell without any issues. It didn't matter whether our pups pawed at the bells or nudged them with their nose, the bells rang loudly throughout the house. Now, be mindful that this dog doorbell is only suitable for doorknobs and handles that can be looped over. If you have a sliding glass door, then check out my next recommendation. Alternatively, you can always use a temporary hook to hang the Poochie Bells alongside your door. The advantage of using a temporary hook is that the doorbell for your pup, you won't do better than the PoochieBells. Loud, easy-to-use, and made in the USA, what's not to love? A hanging dog doorbell that can be attached to handles, like those found on a sliding glass door. Hanging OptionsSliding glass door handle, doorknob, door lever, hookLength26 inchesDuring testing, we found that most hanging dog doorbells won't work with a sliding glass door. They kept falling off. The curved handles found on sliding glass door handle, doorknob, door lever, hookLength26 inchesDuring testing, we found that most hanging dog doorbells won't work with a sliding glass door. dog doorbell from. That's why we decided to add a top pick for those with a patio door handle. And, it doesn't get any better than Caldwell's Potty Bells. At the top of this dog doorbell, you see several rivets. Simply loop the ribbon through your patio door handle and snap the rivets together. Just like that, this dog doorbell isn't going anywhere!At 26-inches long, the Potty Bells hangs low enough for even the smallest of puppies to be able to ring. Our 8-inch tall Chihuahua tester was proof of that! will add that the distance the Potty Bells hangs entirely depends on your door handle. In my neighbor's home, it fell 10 inches from the ground. However, my aunt has these weird oversized handles on her patio door, which put the distance at just 5 inches from the ground. Fortunately, this can be customized to some degree. There are two different rivets on the ribbon, allowing you to shorten or lengthen the puppy bells by a few inches. With two sets of bells, it doesn't take a whole lot of motion to make them chime. While I could still hear them from any room in my home, our pups needed to nudge them more enthusiastically than my previous pick. I liked that the Potty Bells, I settled on black because it didn't mark as easily. If you have a sliding glass door and want to hang a dog doorbell from it, then the Potty Bells are as good as it gets. Highly recommended. A durable brass doorbell that can be mounted at any height. MountingPermanently fixed to the wall or doorDimensions2 x 6 x 7 inchesI'm going to level with you. Most of the fixed dog doorbells we tested were junk. The weak spot appeared to be where the bell connected to the metal strap by a pop rivet. During our testing, all bells in this style broke. Well, all except one... The GoGo Bell Deluxe hits the sweet spot between affordability and durability. No matter how hard our Pit Bull tester pawed, the bell held strong. Warning: This bell is loud. The brass bell chimes with a loud, clear "clang" and can easily be heard from four rooms away. I could even hear it with the TV on! If your hearing isn't the best, then this is the dog doorbell for you! If you are sensitive to noise or have a smaller home, you may find this bell too loud. But what we really love is the size of the bell. At 2-inches wide, the bell is significantly larger than the competition. I noticed this made it easy for our uncoordinated pups to paw while trying to control their bladder. And because this bell sits 6 inches away from the wall, our pups were less likely to mark the wall behind it. I also noticed fewer nose prints. Best of all, because you decide how high to mount it, you can easily position it at the perfect height for your pup. Now, you may be wondering how high you should mount this bell. We installed it just high enough for our pups to reach the bell with their nose. My only complaint is that the screws included in the packaging were a little on the short side. To mount the bell as securely as possible, I suggest going to Home Depot or a local hardware store to pick up some longer screws. If you want a heavy-duty dog doorbell for years to come, then this is as good as it gets. Highly recommended! A wireless dog doorbells, nothing came close to the Mighty Paw Smart Bell. The Mighty Paw Smart Bell comes in two pieces - doorbell and receiver. The setup is simple. Plug the receiver into your power outlet, stick the activator button by your door, and you're set. As soon your pup pushes the activator, the receiver chimes - no wires! What I particularly love about this wireless dog doorbell is that it doesn't need batteries. If you are like me, you'll find that batteries run down at the most important time - it's better if you don't need to replace them at all. I was amused that I could choose from 38 different ring tones, from a traditional ding-dong because the longer chimes took way too long to finish. But the customization doesn't end there. There are also four volume levels to choose from. In all the houses we tested, I found the medium volume to work the best - moving the receiver to the base of the stairs meant I could easily hear it in a two-story home. Have a larger home or less than stellar hearing? If you can't hear the Smart Bell on the loudest setting, then you have the option of buying additional receivers. This way you can have one by your bed, in your kitchen, or anywhere else you have electricity. Wherever you are in your home, you won't miss your dog alerting you that he wants to go out. The receiver also lights up when the button is pushed. I personally didn't find this feature particularly useful since I plugged it in behind my couch. However, my elderly neighbor appreciated the visual reminder to let the dog out. To prevent accidentally chiming, the Smart Bell requires 0.75 pounds of pressure before it activates. But that's not a problem. Even Mr. Cookie triggered the bell, although it took a bit of effort. All our larger testers could push the button without any problems. After experimenting, I found that the perfect mounting height is slightly higher than your dog's nose. This stops your dog from pawing at it and possibly marking the two activators. I personally advise buying the two activator kit. This allows you to place a button on the outside so that your dog can let you know when it's time to come in. Speaking of which, the Smart Bell activator is weatherproof. During our testing, this hardwearing button survived everything Mother Nature threw at it - even after heavy rains and harsh sunlight. Installing the activator was a piece of cake. Located on the rear of the activator was double-sided 3M tape. Simply peel off the sticker, and attach it to your drywall or glass. You can even stick it on your wooden floor for your drywall or glass. You can even stick it on your drywall or glass. brickwork.My only complaint is the color. White just isn't a good color for dogs, and marks easily show up on the surface of the doorbell button. Fortunately, a quick wipe down gets rid of most of the gunk.If you need a wireless dog doorbell, then the Mighty Paw Smart Bell is the perfect dog doorbell for you. Highly recommended.While our top picks outperformed, the following dog doorbells fell short in one way or another. Don't get me wrong... This doesn't necessarily mean that these are bad dog doorbells. After all, each rings if your dog paws or nudges it. However, based on our testing, we see little reason to choose these dog doorbells over our recommendations above. If you are looking for an upgrade pick, the Warner Sporting Leather Sleigh Bells performed remarkably well. Made right here in the USA, it produced a loud, pleasant jingling at the slightest movement. But we loved that the strap was made from leather instead of canvas. The BlueTree Dog Doorbells was yet another hanging doorbell. We were under the impression that we would receive two dog doorbells but only received one. While it's perfectly functional, it is only available in limited colors, and the smaller bells didn't ring as loudly as the sleigh bells found on other dog doorbells. One of the similarly designed bells Coastal Pet Potty Training Bells broke during testing. The Pebble Smart Doggie Doorbell was another strong contender for the best wireless dog doorbell. However, since it needed batteries and buttons, we passed on it. The Pet Chime wireless dog doorbell has been around forever. I bought one waaaaaaay back in 2006 for my mom's new Golden Retriever puppy. Unfortunately, it just isn't reliable. The chime didn't trigger every time our dogs pressed the button. This was consistent across all breeds and even when I pushed it. I really wanted to love the Li'l Pals Dog Potty Training Bells. With an extra inch of length and an adorable flower design, this was one of the few hanging dog doorbells that looked unique. Unfortunately, the bells were not as loud as the others. As for the Tell Bell by Kelston Products, it's basically a call bell that you see on desks in hotel lobbies. The only difference is that this one comes with a larger dogs and pushed by playful puppies. If you want a good dog doorbell that you can permanently attach to the floor, Grab the Mighty Paw Smart Bell I recommend staying away from the barkOutfitters Dog Doorbell. Its bell fell off during testing. The metal strip on the similarly designed Mighty Paw Metal Potty Bell bent out of shape in just a few days, making it unsuitable for large dogs. Imagine you are a dog, bursting to go to the toilet. You run to your backdoor only to discover it's shut. Just one problem... You can't talk. And your paws certainly can't open that doorknob. With no other option, you do your business on the floor. This situation is all too common. Especially during potty training. Sure, your dog might whimper or paw at the door to let you know he wants to go outside. But if you are in another room or have a silent breed, you might not hear your dog nudges the doorbell, it makes a sound alerting you that your dog wants to go outside. It's the easiest way to get your attention. Typically, dogs use the doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. The second doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your home for when your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed on the outside of your pup wants to come inside. Dog doorbells can be installed dog leash with bells on it. Simply hang this dog doorbell over your doorknob, and you're good to go. It's a great temporary option for those enting or if you don't want to damage your walls.2. Shop doorbells that rang when you entered a door. My Mom-and-Pop hardware store still has one. The only difference is that you mount this bell at your dog's height. They are permanently attached to your door or wall.3. Wireless dog doorbells from ring.com. When your pup presses the button at the door, the receiver chimes. Wireless dog doorbells from ring.com. doorbell for your dog. For example, if your dog is an aggressive chewer, you probably don't want to choose a hanging doorbell. An all-metal design would be more appropriate. As always, if ever you see your dog using a product in an unintended way, remove it immediately. This includes doggy doorbells. Dog doorbells are not for everyone. If you already have a dog door, then you probably don't need a dog doorbell. A dog door allows your pup to come and go as he pleases, with no effort from you? But if you...Are tired of your dog scratching and marking doors, Are potty training your dog, Can't hear your dog asking to go out, Have a quiet dog, or Live in a large houseThen a dog doorbell is the perfect product for you!At Canine Journal, we don't recommend any product we wouldn't happily give our own pups.So, we vigorously tested, compared and reviewed each dog doorbells. The first thing we had to do was narrow down which dog doorbells to review. We interviewed dog owners who use dog doorbells, pet store owners as well as sifting through thousands of reviews online. During our research, we noticed that while there are hundreds of different dog doorbells to review a significantly easier task.We purchased over 15 different dog doorbells from Amazon and Chewy. Yep, at Canine Journal, we pay full retail price, just like you.Next, we enlisted the help of our dog testers. The following pups were more than happy to assist us with reviewing dog doorbells:Mr. Cookie - Toy Chihuahua Jack - Labrador Olivia - Jack Russell Terrier Havoc - Pit Bull Terrier Norris - Miniature Australian Shepherd Holly - Boxer FoxhoundIn addition to the usual gang of testers, I enlisted the help of dog owners in my neighborhood. This added a Great Dane, a Golden Retriever and another Labrador to the test. This also allowed me to test the dog doorbells on a broader range of doors, including sliding glass patio doors. I'll admit, the testing process for this review took considerably longer than expected. This was largely because we had to train each dog to use the doorbell. Only two dogs were familiar with them, so the rest had to be trained. We used Mr. Cookie, a Toy Chihuahua, to test if each dog doorbell was suitable for small puppies. At 8-inches tall, this tiny pup needed to be retrained to use the different types of doorbells. Each dog doorbell was then graded on how well it performed. We considered the following when choosing the winners: Was the dog doorbell was then graded on how well it performed. We considered the following when choosing the winners: Was the dog doorbell was then graded on how well it performed. three rooms away? Did the dog doorbells show signs of wear after the review period? After a whopping 200 hours of reviewing, I can confidently say that our top picks excel in each dog doorbell for the above qualities, we made some observations that are worth mentioning: Once you decide which dog doorbell is best for your pup, you need to train him to use it!Don't worry... Training your pup is easier than you think. We simply followed the instructions found in this excellent training video:We were even able to teach our elderly Labrador to use a dog doorbell. To be honest, it took a lot of treats, use of a good dog clicker, and a few weeks. But even this stubborn pup eventually figured out how to use a dog doorbell. Fortunately, it was much easier to train our other pooches. Training 'learned how to use a dog doorbell the quickest. When training your pup to use a dog doorbell, encourage him to nudge it with his nose. We noticed that dogs that preferred to paw at the doggie doorbells tended to also paw the wall behind it, leaving marks behind. You don't want scuff marks on your pawing dog can still cause damage. In one instance, our pawing pup knocked down a wireless dog doorbell that was held up with tape. We did not experience the same problems with dogs who nudged. At worst, we had to wipe away a nose print or two - but there was no permanent damage. If your dog prefers to paw, protect your wall by using something like this. It's essentially a clear sticker that you place behind your dog doorbell, protecting your wall. Best of all, it's easily removable from painted drywall. One of the most popular types of dog doorbells. And it's easily removable from painted drywall. One of the wall. This makes hanging dog doorbells a popular option for renters and those who don't want to damage the walls. However, hanging dog doorbells have a small hole next to the cutout. If your dog paws at the bell, a slight chance exists that your dog's nails could catch in this hole.Now, I must stress that the chances of your pup getting his nail caught is highly unlikely. Over the testing period, we didn't have a single dog get their nail stuck, large or small. But we came across a few reviews (out of thousands) from dog owners who experienced this uncomfortable situation. To be on the safe side, we have to mention it! This is another reason to train your dog to nudge the dog doorbell with his snout instead. Phew, if you made it this far, congratulations! You now know which doggie doorbell swe tested. Which doggie doorbell do you use? Let me know in the comments below!