Has your dog ever tried to run past you when you have opened a door? That can be frightening if your dog runs off. He could become lost, injured or hit by a car. Teaching your dog to WAIT could save your dog’s life. Here are some steps to work with your dog to teach this cue….

**1.** The WAIT cue is actually different than the STAY cue. Wait means the dog will politely stay in position until released to move after a short period. Stay means the dog remains in the position as long as the trainer holds him in that position.

**2.** Start at a doorway that goes outside. Have your dog leashed and hold your hand on the handle. You ask your dog to “Wait”. It does not matter if he is sitting or standing but

preferably at first it may be easier to start with a sit so it is slightly more difficult to go

through the door.

**3.** Open the door slightly (only a couple of inches at first). When the dog gets up to go out the door, close the door shut (be careful not to close it on his body) and have him sit. Again, ask him to “Wait” and open the door slightly again. If he moves forward, repeat shutting the door.

**4.** Repeat the above step again gradually opening the door more. Eventually the dog will look at you like you are bizarre but now he is not pushing in a forward movement. Try opening the door wider, while saying, “Wait”. If he moves forward, shut the door again and repeat.

**5.** Eventually he will start to understand that if he moves forward, he will not get the

opportunity to go outside, which is a high value reward (freedom). When you are able to

have the door completely open and the dog sitting (or standing) politely, say a cue, such

as “OK” to tell him it is alright to go through the door. When he goes through the door,

he is being rewarded with freedom.

**6.** From now on, every time you let your dog go through a door, either inside or outside ask him to “Wait”. Once he is staying put, release with “OK”.

**7.** This Cue should also be taught with car doors. By using this cue, it could save your

dog’s life from jumping out of the car and running into traffic. . Do the same as the above steps, but please be careful not to close it on your dog’s body. When first training, stay close to the car door. As the dog progresses, start stepping back from the door using the Wait cue.

Eventually, distractions are added for a solid foundation. This can be people walking by with or without dogs on the other side of the door and any other distractions that your dog needs to overlook. Remember; take it slowly so he will succeed!