

# Dog Shoes

**Getting Started:** Work on your new dog shoes with your hands by bending the soles of the shoe to make them more comfortable for your dog. Dogs sweat and cool off through their paws so do not leave the boots on longer than one hour. The bootstrap should fit snugly above the metatarsal/metacarpal pad (Paw Pad) but below the carpal pad (thumb). It should fit with little excess room from left to right, and front to back, and bend at a 45-degree angle where the dog's paw naturally bends. Your dog will most likely “dance” their first time in boots, shaking their paws and high stepping. This is a natural reaction! Don't be alarmed and try not to laugh — dogs are sensitive and laughing can cause anxiety for them.



## Steps:

1. Stock your pocket/pouch with the dog's favorite treats. Put a collar or harness on the dog and attach a 6-foot leash. Go to a quiet area the dog is comfortable in. Make sure there are no distractions.
2. Put one shoe on the floor and let him check it out. Anytime the dog shows interest or starts to sniff it, mark “yes” and give him a treat.
3. Then with the shoe in hand move it towards the dog, mark “yes” and treat when the dog shows interest.
4. Next run the shoe gently in his foot then, mark “yes” and give a treat, when he lets you touch his paw with the shoe. Once he lets you do this with each paw individually move to the next step.
5. Take the shoe put it on one paw, mark “yes” treat him, and take it off immediately then Praise him with LOTS of pets and “good dog”.
6. Repeat step 7 with each paw individually, taking the shoe off before proceeding to the next paw. Once your dog seems comfortable and more willing to give you his paw move on to the next step.
7. Put one shoe on one paw and leave the shoe on for 30 seconds give your dog a treat then take off the shoe. Practice this slowly increasing the time the shoes are on the dogs' paws. Once your dog seems comfortable and more willing to give you his paw move on to the next step.

**Note:** Stop the training session if your dog panics or is agitated and trying to tear them off, say nothing, just remove the boots and no treats. This is a new sensation for him, just go slow. He'll learn soon enough, shoes ON-GOOD! Shoes Off- NOTHING.

