Teaching the beagle to ring a bell to go out.

Buy 36” of narrow ribbon and 5 large jingle bells.

Tie one bell at the end of the ribbon.

Thread the next bell on, tying it about 3 inches above the first one, and continue until all 5 bells are on.

Tie a loop in the opposite end and hang it on your doorknob.

For a week, every time you take the dog to the door to go out, you ring the bells and give the dog a cookie, open the door and take them outside on a 6’ leash. Walk them to the spot you want them to go, and plant your feet – don’t wander with the dog, because as long as their nose is picking up new scents, they won’t want to get down to business. As the dog circles, you may pivot to keep from getting tangled, but don’t walk with them. Of course they get their cookie when they do their business outside! (If they don’t go after 10 minutes, bring them in and put them in their crate for ½ hour.)

The second week, hold the cookie between the ribbon and the door (because it’s hanging from the doorknob, the ribbon doesn’t actually touch the door). The dog will reach for the cookie and the bells will ring – release the cookie to the dog immediately, open the door, go out on leash and reward for pottying outside.

Usually by the start of the third week, the dog will ring the bell himself.

Now, they’re smart, though, so if they want to go outside because it’s a nice day, they’ll ring the bell. If they don’t potty when they get outside, bring him back inside, put him in his crate for ½ hour with no cookie, then try again later. He’ll soon realize that “crying wolf” will not get him playtime, but will get him back into his crate for a time-out.