



Place

WHAT IS IT?

“Place” is a command that means go to a specific spot and stay.

Your dog should be able to walk to their place bed, go into a “Down” position, and stay there until you release your pup with the “Free” or “Come” cue. This is a different command than a “Down Stay” because we are asking the dog to go to a specific and defined space, typically for a lengthy period of time.

WHEN AND HOW TO USE “PLACE”

- * “Place” is a useful command to settle your dog, and to replace undesirable behaviors.
 - * The “Place” command can be useful for:
 - * When the doorbell rings (instead of barking at the door)
 - * Company coming into the house (instead of jumping on guests)
 - * When you’re eating dinner (instead of begging at the table)
 - * Relaxing and being part of the family instead of climbing on furniture!
 - * This command is always supervised. The goal is not to be able to leave the room or area, but to have your dog maintain calm behavior in everyday situations.
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HOW TO TEACH “PLACE”

Step 1

Mark the moment with “Yes” and reward your dog for touching the place bed with any part of their body. The release word “Free” is added immediately.

Step 2

Increase the criteria for how much of the body is on the place bed until all four paws

are on consistently (i.e. If your dog is offering one paw on the bed, wait to reward until there are two paws on the bed).

Step 3

Reward your dog for offering a “Sit” on the place bed. Why wouldn’t we just ask our dog

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Place (*Continued*)

to sit? We want to teach one fluid behavior, and we are chaining several behaviors together. Instead of “Place, Sit, Down, Stay” we are teaching that the word place means all those things!

Step 4

Reward your dog for offering “Down” on the place bed. This is a tricky step, and you can warm your dog up with a few “Downs” off the place bed if necessary. We are waiting for your dog to be consistently offering “Down” without being cued.

Step 5

Adding Verbal Cue / Hand Signal. Start 1ft away from the place bed and gesture with a pointed finger toward the place bed, while simultaneously adding the cue “Place.” Mark the moment as soon as the dog has completed the entire behavior and immediately release. We are adding distance, so the duration criteria is low.