

Go To Bed

There are times when you will want your dog to settle out of the way, perhaps you are cooking dinner, working, or training other dogs.

In this video I am using both a raised platform bed and a matt. I want the dog to learn to go to either of these because if I am away from home I may not have the raised platform bed with me but it is easy enough to pack a matt.



Steps:

1. Be prepared with a number of visible treats. Head towards the bed and place treats on the bed. When your puppy gets on the bed click or mark with yes and reinforce with more treats.
2. Continue to give treats as your puppy stays on the bed / matt (BEST PLACE EVER!)
3. Step back and reward your puppy if he stays on the bed. If he doesn't don't correct, simply stand next to the bed and wait for him to offer the behavior of getting on the bed and then mark and reinforce.
4. When you are ready for the puppy to come off the bed use a release word such as "break" or "ok". No treats for coming off ,the exercise is just over.

Building on the Go To Bed:

After you have practiced the Go to Bed exercise for a bit your dog should have a pretty good idea that bed is a just a really great place to be. If he has started to offer up the behavior of going to the bed himself we can build on that.



1. After you have done a “break” from the bed. Hold your puppy (he should be facing the bed). Holding a dog back usually builds a little drive to move forward. When your puppy tries to move forward let him go and if he heads for the bed mark the behavior with “yes” or a click and reinforce. If your dog doesn’t go the bed right away give him some time to figure it out.

Tip: Notice that in the video – if my puppy came off the bed I don’t correct him I just wait for him to offer up the correct behavior and mark and reinforce that.

Adding the Cue:

1. Starting close to the bed hold your puppy back just like in the previous exercise but just as you let him go give him the cue “ Go to Bed”.
2. Mark and reinforce when he goes to the bed.

Steps for Building Further:

- Build distance – step away one step then more and then step back to reward.
- Increase the amount of time the dog stays on the bed before reinforcing and before breaking

Remember – You should only ask your dog to “Go to Bed” only once and you shouldn’t to point. If he is not going on the first command back up a few steps and make sure you dog is solid on the first part of this exercise.