

Teaching “Go to Bed”

Teaching a dog to “Go to Bed” provides owners with the peace of mind that their dog is happy resting on their bed when other things are happening in the household, such as meals, guests, or working at the computer or reading. It allows the dog greater responsibility and privilege of less time in the crate.

Learning Objective: The dog learns that remaining in a down on a mat is valuable

Training Steps:

- 🐾 Place several treats on a mat, towel, blanket, or his bed and allow your dog to move to the bed to eat.
- 🐾 When all treats are gone, give your release cue (“Okay”) and remove your dog from the bed, (by his leash or by encouraging with our voice or pats) about 4-5 ft.
- 🐾 Get boring, look at the bed, no treats in hands or hand in pocket or bait bag. Count to 5 in your head.
- 🐾 If your dog moves to the bed, follow and reward with praise and 6-8 small treats on the bed.
- 🐾 Release and repeat. If your dog does not move to the bed, walk him back to the bed and place 6-8 small treats on the bed.
- 🐾 Gradually increase distance from the bed as your dog shows more desire and speed in getting there. As your dog becomes consistent at moving to the bed, you can encourage or cue your dog to “Down” before giving several treats on the mat between his front paws.
- 🐾 Gradually increase the duration of the dog laying quietly on the bed before rewarding. Start with a couple of seconds and add more seconds and moving a little around the dog as he is successful.
- 🐾 If the dog is unsuccessful and leaves the bed before you have given your release cue, encourage him back to the bed and reduce the amount of time between rewards or movement around the bed until you are getting several repetitions of good success.
- 🐾 [Video Step 1](#)
- 🐾 [Video Step 2](#)

Key points:

- ✓ Place treats on the bed, rather than feed from your hand
- ✓ If on leash, be sure to keep loose without restraint
- ✓ Goal is to provide plentiful rewards for choosing and staying on the bed, gradually increasing duration and lowering rate of reward.



Don't be a gambler! Work with sure bets! If your dog fails twice in a row, make it easier. If your dog is successful four times in a row move to next step.