

GO TO YOUR SPOT

This simple command has so many applications that you will wonder why you didn't take the time to train your dog to do it sooner. Sending your dog to his spot can keep him from interfering in family activities, keep him out from under foot when you are cooking, teach him to calm down and even give him a familiar spot to relax while you are in a hotel room or visiting friends.

First of all, your dog's "spot" can be a specific place in the living room, a rug that you lay down for your dog, a dog bed or a crate. You can also use specific command words for each different "spot" that you designate. For instance, go to your crate, bed, rug or spot. Begin by placing a rug in the

middle of the floor. Be sure that you have plenty of treats with you to reward for obeying the command. While you are standing next to the rug, point to it and tell your dog to "go to your spot." If the dog needs to investigate, drop a treat on the rug for your dog to investigate. Once on the rug, reward your dog and then get him to "down" and then to "stay" for a bit.



sure that you have you to reward for command. While you the rug, point to it "go to your spot." If on the rug for your Once on the rug, then get him to "stay" for a bit.

Release your dog and start all over again. You should repeat the exercise five or six times per session and be sure to have these training sessions several times throughout the day. Once your dog responds with ease to the "go to your spot" command, begin giving the command a few feet from the rug. Continue to add a little distance between you and the rug every time your dog becomes comfortable with responding from the present distance. You will eventually be able to give this handy command from across the room and even from different rooms in your house. It is also important to train your dog to stay on the spot for a period of time. This is where the time and effort that you put into the "stay" command pays off. Use the stay command and remember to keep an eye on your dog so that you can reinforce the command if need be. Release him after a few minutes. There really is no magic to teaching this command; consistency and practice are the keys.