

GO TO YOUR MAT

Sure enough, this command means for your dog to go to their bed/mat and stay there until you give them permission to leave. It's a great skill for when company arrives, or you are busy & you need your dog to stay out of the way. Use your release cue to let the dog know when they can move off.

- **Set up.** Stand with your dog about two feet from their bed/mat.
- **Lure.** Extend your arm and toss treats onto the bed/mat to lure your dog. (Don't give any verbal commands yet.)
- **Mark and reward.** Once your dog is on their bed/mat, praise them and give them another treat.
- **Release.** Give your dog a command that lets them know it's okay for them to leave their bed/mat.

Repeat these steps as many times as necessary or until your dog has this process down.

You may also want to keep these tips in mind:

- Use a bed/mat with raised sides. This helps dogs easily recognize the boundaries.
- Don't give your dog a treat when you release them from their bed/mat.
- Once your dog has the hang of this process, try having them lie down and stay on the bed/mat. If they move off, have them go back.
- Any time your dog goes to their bed/mat on their own, without your command, praise them and reward them with a treat.