

Evaluation Item: Play ▾

Evaluator Level: Green ▾

Introducing “Place”

“Place” is an unbelievably useful cue. We can use it to tell a jumpy dog where to go and what to do instead of jumping up on visitors. We can use it to tell a scared dog that they can remove themselves from the situation and “hide” on their place. This activity, depending on how fun we make it, can be both mental and physical exercise for the dog. There are so many applications for “place,” it’s impossible to list them all!

1. Say “Place,” then use some sort of reward to “lure” a dog onto the place mat. When they get all four feet onto the mat, give them the reward!
2. Stage 1 is just getting all four feet on the “place” before giving the dog the reward.
3. Stage 2 is sitting or laying down on the “place” before giving the dog the reward.
4. There is an implied “stay” with a “place.” Make sure that we’re always giving a cue to signal that it’s time to get up from the “place.” You can use “release” if you don’t care what the dog does next, or a “let’s go,” “heel,” “come,” or a “touch” to give more direction.

Adopter Highlight

This is a great cue to highlight how advanced a dog is in their training, whether that be brand new or an expert! When adopters ask questions about what to do in certain situations, “place” is a great place to start. “If they bark at the door, what do I do?” “We ask him to go to his “place” to get him away from the door.” “If they jump on people, what do I do?” “We ask him to go to his “place,” so we can leash him and make sure he doesn’t knock grandma over when she comes to visit.”

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