



# The Place

## Foundational

### Definition of Place:

Your dog has 3-4 paws on a mat with the ability to change position (ie. sit or down). They must stay on the mat until released.

### Achieve Target Behaviour

1. With your dog on leash on one side of you, and a mat on the other, pre-load your lure hand and tuck it behind your back then say your dog's name.
2. Cue "place" then present your visual cue to assist your dog into the mat.
  - a. **If your dog's gets on the mat:** Say "yes" (duration marker). Step towards them. Pay your dog in position. Mark & reward 2-3 more times. Then tap them on the shoulder and say "break" (release marker).
  - b. **If your dog doesn't get on the mat:** Do not reward them. Say "no" (no reward marker) and step into the dog's space. Assist them with the lure back into position. Keep the dog steady with the leash and repeat step 2. Work around less distractions or use higher value rewards, if your dog fails more than 3 times in a row.
3. Repeat this process several times until your dog is successful 3/3 times.
4. Then practice adding 5-10 seconds of duration before you say "yes" (duration marker) and reward your dog in position, then release them.

### Adding a Controlled Distraction

3 Sets of 3 Reps or 5 min session

See "*Understanding Distractions*" for more information on controlled distractions and examples.

1. Ensure the leash is in ready position to redirect and steady your dog. Cue your dog "place".
2. After your dog is in position, add a controlled distraction. Your dog should be aware of the distraction but still able to respond to the cue  $\frac{2}{3}$  times.
  - a. **If your dog listens:** Say "yes" (duration marker). Step towards them. Pay your dog in position. Then tap them on the shoulder and say "break" (release marker).
  - b. **If your dog doesn't listen:** Do not reward. Say "no" (no reward marker) and step into the dog's space. Assist them with the lure back into position and repeat step 1. Keep the dog steady with the leash. Consider moving the distraction further away or using an easier one, if your dog fails more than 3 times in a row.
3. Repeat this process several times until your dog is successful 3/3 times consistently. Then gradually fade out the food in your lure and/or only rewarding with food for above average performances.

## When to Advance the 3 D's

Remember The Rule of 3. If your dog easily completes three successful reps in a row, advance to longer duration, standing further away from the dog (distance), working closer to distractions or higher distractions. Only focus on challenging one of the 3 D's. If your dog fails three times in a row go back a step and make it easier.