

# Settle on a Mat

## Level 2: Add a Cue

### Purpose:

The purpose of this exercise is to shape the dog to begin moving to and lying down on the mat, from a short distance and in response to a verbal cue

### Dog Skills

Self control  
Offer behaviour  
Respond to a cue

### People Skills

Shaping  
Cueing

### Steps:

1. Start with a warm-up by clicking and treating the dog for lying down on the mat. Treat ON 3 times then release dog off (toss treat off)
2. Begin introducing a verbal cue as the dog is moving onto the mat. C/T correct responses. Only 3 treats ON, then release off so the PRACTICE is hearing the cue and going TO the mat (not necessarily staying on the mat at this point).
3. Move a few steps away from the mat and look at the mat. Give the cue the instant the dog moves toward the mat, then click (treat on mat). Repeat this step several times until the dog is moving a few steps to the mat and lying down..
4. Gradually move farther from the mat (no more than a few steps). Give the cue and click when the dog moves to and lies down on the mat. Treat on the mat. Release.
5. IF the dog is NOT successful, move a little closer and continue working at this level until the dog is reliably moving to and lying down on the mat.

### Click Points

While the dog is moving toward the mat.

When the dog lies down on the mat.

### Good for developing these other behaviours:

Settle Levels 2–4, stay, settle in crate, drop on recall, polite greetings and manners around visitors and more.

### At home fun:

Move the mat around to different locations (kitchen, bathroom, outdoors, car) and take it with you when you visit other people. Keep in mind that you may need to review steps from earlier levels when practicing in a new location.