

# ON YOUR BED

## LEVEL ONE

### WHY AM I TRAINING THIS?

This is a wonderful behavior to have in your back pocket. Teaching your dog to go to a specific space that is their spot in the house can be a great management tool. This behavior helps with having guests over that may not be comfortable around dogs, keeping your dog from learning behaviors you don't want (begging, jumping, etc.) and other situations where you need your dog in a safe location, while you attend to other things.

### GET READY:

- ✓ Some yummy treats
- ✓ Mat, bed or rug/towel (Note: It is easier to teach a stay on a raised bed)
- ✓ Find a space the dog is familiar and comfortable with, that is as free of distractions as possible (Backyard, living room, kitchen, dining room, bedroom, garage, etc.).

### GET SET:

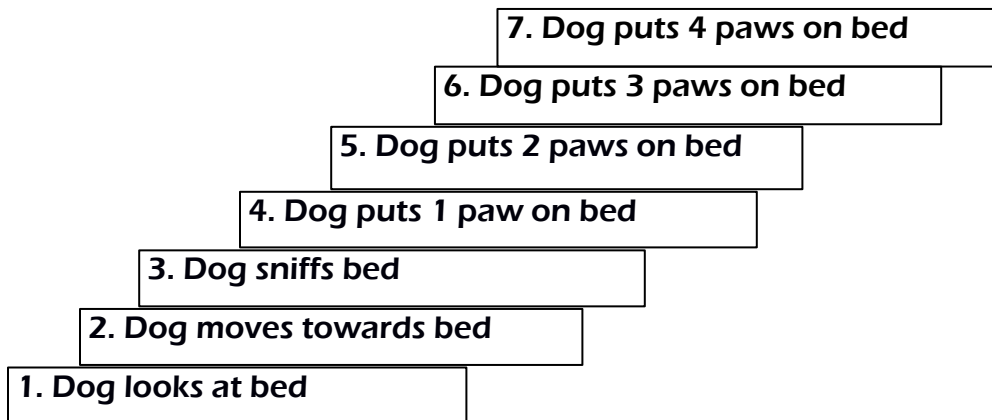
- ✓ Have your tasty treats ready and easy to access (i.e. treat bag, pocket, etc.)
- ✓ Have the mat, bed or rug/towel ready to place on the ground (i.e. in your hand, up on a table or shelf, propped up on its side, etc.)

### GO:

- ✓ Our goal for this level is to simply build value for the bed (or your choice of object). To do this, we are going to make sure that every interaction that the dog has with the bed initially is highly valuable
  - Before you place the bed in front of your dog, make sure that you are prepared to mark and reward the second your dog begins to interact with the bed.
  - When you are ready, place the bed on the floor in front of your dog. Toss a cookie on the bed to lure your dog onto the bed. Continue tossing cookies around the bed until your dog is all the way on the bed.



- Keep your dog on the bed by placing cookies in different corners of the bed.
- You want your dog to associate the bed with cookies and stepping off the bed with nothing. Therefore, if your dog steps off the bed, with any of their paws, wait for them to return to the bed and begin rewarding on the bed again.
- ✓ If your dog shows reluctance or confusion about getting all the way onto the bed, use this staircase to break down the steps of approaching and getting on the bed. This will make the process easier for your dog to understand and slow it down for the ones that are nervous about it. (Note: NEVER drag your dog onto the bed!)



- ✓ Once you have your dog on the bed, and they are choosing to stay on the bed, wait for your dog to sit or lay down (It's your preference. You may need to start with a sit to get to a down unless your dog offers downs fairly freely).
  - Once your dog is sitting or lying down, use your chosen release word to allow them off the bed and ask for a simple behavior (hand touch, sit, high five, etc.)
- ✓ If you have built enough value for the bed, after releasing your dog and performing the behavior, your dog should go straight back to the bed. Turn your body towards the bed and stare at it to encourage them to return. Wait for them to return and reward on the bed.
  - If your dog does not return to the bed, then the bed doesn't hold enough value yet so you need to add more value. Go back to the start of the level and add more value to the bed. (Note: the reward you are using may need to be higher value as well. You can try some tastier treats such as plain cooked chicken, soft training treats, steak, etc.)
- ✓ Repeat this process 5-10 times and then move on to Level 2.

