



SA PRO TRAINER RESOURCES

The Magic Mat Game

The Magic Mat Game will teach your dog that it's way more rewarding to stay on his mat than to follow you around the house.

You will need:

- A mat that you'll only use for this training (and will put away when not training),
- Lots of great treats, and
- The training plan.

Grading Rules

Work in sets of five tries.

- If your dog gets it right four or five times out of five, move to next step.
- If your dog gets it right three times out of five, repeat the current step.
- If your dog gets it right one or two times out of five, drop to the previous step.
- Always reward your dog in a down position. If he gets up when you're reaching for treats after a distraction, get him back into a down before giving him the treat.

The more you practice this, the more magic the mat will become. When you take out the mat, your dog will rush to it. This is because all that reward training you've been doing has made him associate the mat with treats!

Once this behavior is solid, you can start to take the mat on the road, which is great for trips to the vets, visiting friends, or even eating out (in places where that's allowed).

The step-by-step plan starts on the following page.

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STEP #	WHAT DOG NEEDS TO DO TO EARN TREATS	# RIGHT OUT OF 5
1	Hold a down for 1 second with a treat ~2 feet away from the dog at his nose level.	1 2 3 4 5
2	Hold a down for 3 seconds with a treat ~2 feet away from the dog at his nose level.	1 2 3 4 5
3	Hold a down for 1 second with a treat 2-3 feet away on the ground. (If he moves, cover or grab the treat so he can't pick it up.)	1 2 3 4 5
4	Hold a down for 3 seconds with a treat 2-3 feet away on the ground.	1 2 3 4 5
5	(Stand on the other side of dog.) Hold a down for 1 second with a treat 2-3 feet away on the ground.	1 2 3 4 5
6	(Stand on the other side of dog.) Hold a down for 3 seconds with a treat 2-3 feet away on the ground.	1 2 3 4 5
7	Hold a down while you take 1 step to the side and back.	1 2 3 4 5
8	Hold a down while you take 2 steps to the side and back.	1 2 3 4 5
9	Hold a down while you take 3 steps around your dog and back.	1 2 3 4 5
10	Hold a down while you walk halfway around your dog and back.	1 2 3 4 5
11	Hold a down while you walk a full circle around the dog.	1 2 3 4 5
12	Repeat steps 7-11 in the other direction.	1 2 3 4 5
	(7) Hold a down while you take 1 step to the side and back.	1 2 3 4 5
	(8) Hold a down while you take 2 steps to the side and back.	1 2 3 4 5
	(9) Hold a down while you take 3 steps around your dog and back.	1 2 3 4 5
	(10) Hold a down while you walk halfway around your dog and back.	1 2 3 4 5
	(11) Hold a down while you walk a full circle around the dog.	1 2 3 4 5
13	Hold a down while you walk 6 feet across the room, and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
14	Hold a down while you step to doorway, and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
15	Hold a down while you step out of the room into the hallway and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
16	Hold a down while you step out of the room and close door and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5

STEP #	WHAT DOG NEEDS TO DO TO EARN TREATS	# RIGHT OUT OF 5
17	Hold a down while you go into an adjoining room and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
18	Hold a down while you go into an adjoining room and close door, and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
19	Hold a down while you step to doorway and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
20	Hold a down while you step out of room into the hallway and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
21	Hold a down while you step out of room into the hallway, into another room and return immediately.	1 2 3 4 5
22	Hold a down while you step out of room into the hallway, into another room, count for 10, then return.	1 2 3 4 5
23	Hold a down while you step out of room into the hallway, into another room, count for 15, then return.	1 2 3 4 5

What's Next?

From here just continue to build duration in another room. If you have stairs you could add in going up stairs (you might want to break it down into a few steps at a time.)