

Place Training

Why Teach Place? 🐾



1

Kitchen Safety

Gives your cat an alternative to being on the counter when you are cooking or preparing food.



2

Create Predictability

Provides a spot for your cat to stay while you are training another cat, having guests over, or need to keep them out of trouble.



3

Set An Expectation

Gives your cat a comfortable place to go so they aren't underfoot while you are moving around the house.

Getting Started

Follow These Steps to Introduce "Place" 🐾

1

Find a new, "knock-your-socks-off" treat that your cat goes bonkers for. Try Lick 'n Lap or shaved deli turkey. It must be something your cat doesn't get on a regular basis, and from here forward **ONLY** gets during training.

2

Choose a mat, cat bed, folded towel or blanket that you don't mind putting on the floor and your cat laying on it. If you are using a cat bed, make sure it is new, not just moved from another part of the home. If you have a hard floor, you can also make a box or X shape with tape.

3

Put the "place" (mat, towel, bed, etc.) on the floor, have treats in hand, and stand near it.

4

Any time your cat sniffs, steps, or gets on the "place," "mark" the behavior with a unique word or phrase, said in a way you don't normally say it. For example, you might say an exuberant "Yes!", or a high-pitched "Good boy!"

Quickly place the treat ON the mat. Ideally, the treat is delivered within about three seconds of the behavior (and mark) happening.

Mark (by saying your unique thing) **and reward** every time your cat interacts with the mat.

5

When the cat is sitting on the mat, release him by saying "ok" and tossing a smaller treat off to the side. Treats for going **TO** the mat pay better than getting off the mat.

6

Continue repeating steps 3-5 until your cat is going to the mat on his own - this is the amazing moment your cat realizes the mat is the jackpot (and that they have trained you to give them treats when they go to sit on it.)



Continue the Training

Once your cat is consistently going to the mat, continue with these next steps to refine the behavior, “place” cue, and build duration and distance.

Refine the behavior

- 7 Lure your cat with the awesome treat, over to the mat and into a laying position on the mat. Mark the behavior with your unique word or phrase and give a big treat directly on the mat.
- 8 Release your cat with “ok” and toss a small treat off to the side.
- 9 Repeat steps 7-9 until your cat is reliably offering the behaviors of going to the mat and laying or sitting down.

Add the cue and build duration

- 10 To add a cue and to build duration, stand near the mat with your cat, say “place”, then make a sweeping pointing gesture to the mat. If your cat goes to the mat and lays or sits, mark with your phrase and give several consecutive small rewards. If your cat doesn't go to the mat, then go back and repeat steps 7-9.
- 11 Release your cat with “ok” and toss a small treat off to the side.
- 12 Repeat steps 10-12 ten times. If your cat gets up at any time while you are reinforcing the behavior, stop the treats and lure back to laying or sitting, reward multiple times, then release.



Tip: The duration may be too long if the cat is breaking the down position. Reduce your time and release sooner.

Slow down the rewards

- 13 Now you start to slow down the treat delivery, increasing the place duration with fewer treats.

Build distance

- 14 Increase the distance between you and the cat by taking a step away from the mat. Step back to the mat to deliver the reward treat onto the mat. Repeat several times before increasing the distance further. When building duration and distance, always work in small increments.

Practice at a distance

- 15 Practice giving the “place” cue at a distance by saying “place” and walking your cat toward the mat.



Remember to work at your cat's pace. If you have multiple cats, put the others in a separate room while you are training one at a time. Each time the cat doesn't comply, think about your expectations and lower your criteria. This gives your cat a chance to “win”, feel successful, and better understand what you are asking.