

'Going to Bed'

Training your puppy to go to bed on command is easy if your puppy is given a bed or “den” to lie in, a bed-time routine, and he is tired at bed time.

Whenever you are awake make sure your puppy is also awake and active. You will need to get some interactive toys to keep your pup amused. Examples include *treat balls, Kong chew toys, other chew toys, a rawhide chew, a nice meaty bone*, or another pet (dogs and cats love to play together when you are not there). That way your puppy will be tired at the end of the day.

Ensure that you have a routine (just like with children) such that your pup goes to bed at a certain time, in its bed, every day.

The command “go to bed” is accompanied by a direct point with your finger to the bed. When the pup is little you will have to pick up the pup and put him in the bed while saying the command “go to bed”. With repetition of the command every time you put him into the bed, and with pointing to the bed before you do so, he will soon learn that you want him to go to his “den” and lie down.

With time you will be able to point to *any* spot, say “go to bed”, and he should know to go and lie down there – even in a stranger’s house or on holidays. It helps if you take a bedding item, even a small pet blanket, and lie that out on the spot you want him to lie down upon. Generally bigger breeds are easier to train to “go to bed” than little dogs, but even little dogs will be happy to lie down if their familiar blanket is put down for them to lie upon.