



Yours/Not Yours on Mat

- Practice sending your dog to their mat and fade out the help for going into the down. The down should be becoming an automatic part of the behavior. Your verbal cue is added once the final picture of the mat behavior is achieved. The mat is giving your dog the cue to down, you are just giving your dog permission to go to the mat and perform the required behavior once he gets there.
- Once your dog is down on their mat, toss a treat to your dog. If the treat lands on the mat, it is theirs, if it lands off the mat it is not theirs. If the treat lands on the mat and your dog gets up to eat it, pause the game, wait for your dog to offer the down again before continuing the game. You may cage the food if your dog does not reset to a down on their own and wait for them to return to the down. Give them a chance to think about it first.
- If they get off the mat to get the food, cover it with your foot and wait for them to return to the mat and go into the down to play again. If they don't return to the mat on their own, look at or step towards the mat to help your dog, don't re-cue verbally. Only use the verbal cue on a non-mistake send, like when you have released them and asked them to return.

