



# Magic Carpet

The Magic Carpet is a portable boundary, one that you can carry around with you, such as a bath mat or other small rug. Using this portable boundary in a multitude of environments helps the dog generalize their mat (boundary) behavior.

## Option 1: New Environment/ Familiar Mat

Take your mat behavior to new places. Once your dog has a working understanding of down on the mat at home with some distractions, you can try it out somewhere new. New does not mean exciting or overwhelming. You want your dog to be able to choose the mat over the environment. As your dog gains confidence, you will be able to gradually increase the difficulty. Change one thing at a time. Think Distance, Distraction, Duration. If you make sure as one criterion gets harder the other two get easier, you will find the balance.

## Option 2: Familiar Environment/ New Mat

Generalize down on a mat to other similar boundaries. It may be hard for you to bring your dog's mat everywhere you go, so it may be nice for your dog to accept other things as a boundary for their down behavior. Start with your dog on their mat, reward for position, release your dog and toss a reset cookie. Repeat several times. As your dog is out searching for the cookie, replace their mat with another flat surface (rubber mat, bath mat, door mat, cardboard, clothing, etc.) and help them find the down position on the new boundary. Reward for position, release, reset, repeat. If they struggle with a new surface after the reset, replace it with the familiar mat to boost confidence back up before trying another item.

Soon you will be able to take this option to new places as well or find options in the environment (such as a retaining wall or a flat rock to try out).