

– Client Handout

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

Whenever you are awake make sure your puppy is 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* (more on bones later), 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. My dogs have learned the command “go to bed”. It is accompanied by a direct point to the bed. When the pups are 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 / she will soon learn that you want them to go to their “den” and lie down.

With time you will be able to point to *any* spot, say “go to bed”, and they 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 them to lie down upon. Also I find big dogs 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.