

A FREE TRAINING GUIDE



Teach Your Dog How To Wipe Their Paws

BY PIPPA MATTINSON





WELCOME

This is a fun game that teaches your dog to wipe their paws by turning on a mat or rug.

The aim of this game is to wipe your dog's paws so that they don't walk mud all over your clean floors. It's also a good way to reduce door barging and improve your dog's attention and focus on you.

Pippa Mattinson



SUITABLE FOR

All dogs and puppies from about four months old.

TIME/DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

Most dogs will learn this within 7-10 sessions. You need to have just three minutes to spare each day, at least once a day, for up to eight days. If you can fit in 3 sessions a day, you will probably complete this game in three or four days.

REQUIREMENTS

You'll need the following equipment:

- An absorbent doormat big enough for your dog to comfortably turn in a circle without stepping off the mat. Some high value treats - tiny cubes
- of roast meat or cheese work well for many dogs A treat bag to attach to your belt or
- pocket



Training Steps

STEP 1

2 - 3 SESSIONS

FEED ON THE MAT

Have the dog indoors with you. Drop several (5-10) treats onto the mat where the dog can see them.

If necessary feed the dog from your hand and walk over to the mat while you are doing so to make them aware of the treats that are waiting there. Repeat several times a day.

This is simply about building value for the mat, and making it an interesting place for the dog to be.



STEP 2

2 - 3 SESSIONS

FEED ON ENTRY

With the dog on the outside of the door and you on the inside, when the dog is ready to come in, drop 3 treats on the mat and have 3 more in your hand.

Open the door and feed the dog a treat from your hand as they step onto the mat, then drop the other two treats on the mat.

When the dog has eaten the treats, open the door to let the dog out (throw a treat outside if they don't want to go) and repeat several times.



STEP 3

1 - 2 SESSIONS

LURING THE CIRCLE

Important note: don't get stuck on the lure, move straight on to a 'fake' lure (empty hand, same movement) when you've got your circle.

In this step you'll feed all the treats from your hand. You'll hold several treats in one hand, and a single treat in the other.

Let the dog in through the door and feed the single treat as they step onto the mat, then hold the second treat just out of reach and move it forwards and to the right of the dog so that they have to take a few steps in a quarter circle before releasing the treat into the dog's mouth.

Repeat but don't release the treat until the dog has turned a full circle. When you have lured the dog into a full circle a couple of times, move straight on to the next step.



STEP 4

1 - 2 SESSIONS

HAND SIGNAL

This time you'll let the dog in, show them your empty hand then immediately 'pretend' lure them in a circle, feeding a treat from your other hand when they complete the circle. Practice several times.



STEP 5

1 - 2 SESSIONS

CUE



Now you can replace your hand signal with a cue. As your dog stops on the mat expecting their treat say 'Wipe your paws' and then 'pretend' lure them in a circle as before.

Repeat but make your hand signal a less obvious more casual movement. Repeat again with only a very small movement of your hand.

Finally say 'wipe your paws' and keep your hand still for several seconds. If your dog fails to circle, then you can bring back your hand signal for one repetition. Then try again without it.

Once your dog is circling on your verbal cue with no hand signal, all that remains is to keep practicing. Always have a treat or two in your hand when you let the dog in through the door, and give the cue 'wipe your paws' whenever you want them to dry their feet on the mat.

What might go wrong?



If your dog doesn't stop on the mat at Step 2, you haven't built enough value for the mat. Go back to Step 1 for a few sessions using better treats, and a hungrier dog! (Train before your dog's meals, not afterwards)

If you need help with the game you can reply to my emails!



Building on the Game

Learning to use and lose a lure is a useful skill for you to learn. Pausing on the threshold rather than rushing through doorways and gateways is good manners for your dog and much safer than dashing straight through.

A good next game to play is 'Wait At The Gate'



I HOPE YOU ENJOYED PLAYING WIPE YOUR PAWS!

Check out my website: dogsnet.com for more fun and games for you and your dog.

