CORRECT 3 STAGES

ON HOW TO REWARD A PUPPY'S NEW SKILL

1

TEACHING PHASE:

Every time your puppy successfully does the right behaviour in this period you must reward your puppy **EVERY SINGLE TIME**.

2

PROOFING PHASE:

This is the phase to help your puppy understand that the newly trained behaviour is the same behaviour needed no matter the circumstance or environment.

E.g. Sit means sit when there is a car driving past or you are 15m away or it is someone else issuing the command.

Focus on your 3 D's - Distance, Duration and Distraction.
You must still give your puppy a treat **EVERY SINGLE TIME.**

3

MAINTENANCE PHASE:

Only once your puppy can successfully offer up the behaviour in many different locations, with different types of distractions, durations and distances after only being asked ONCE, can you start to vary the reinforcement rate and transition it to being more like the pokies (random, don't know when you are going to hit that jackpot so you keep coming back for more).

To begin introducing the varying reward schedule go by the 1 in 10 rule where 1 reinforcement out of every 10 reinforcements offered is an alternative reinforcement like a pat.

Slowly you can then start to increase the varying reward schedule and then introduce randomisation to help make the behaviour more resistant to extinction of rewards.

Consistency in the early stages builds understanding.
Varying rewards in the later stages builds reliability.
Small steps today, confident dog tomorrow.



Better communication. Stronger connection. Real life ready.