# ISSUING COMMANDS

## Teaching puppies what cues mean

Your puppy is still learning what our words mean. Teach the pattern first, reward the choice you want repeated, and then add the cue once the behaviour has meaning.

Focus on one cue at a time. When teaching, aim to include:

- Teach the pattern before the cue
- Let them think before repeating yourself
- Use your movement to create a choice
- Once the behaviour has meaning, give it a name
- Reward the behaviour you want repeated
- Give the cue once, then wait 5 seconds
- The reward tells your puppy what worked
- If needed, repeat the cue one more time only

**Important**

Your dog gets to decide what is rewarding.
A reward is only a reward if your dog values it.
That might be food, play, sniffing, movement, access, or interaction with you.

If your puppy does not respond, do not keep asking.
Reassess the situation.
Other dogs, noises, movement, or the environment may be making it harder for them to respond.

**Be clear. Say it once.**
**Wait. Reward the right choice.**

