

**Questions to ask yourself**  
**If you ever**  
**Feel the need to punish**

- ❖ Have I thoroughly taught this puppy what I do want him to do instead of this behaviour he's doing currently?
- ❖ Am I 100% positive that he knows the correct response and was not just previously responding to prompts?
- ❖ Is there an alternative behaviour I can prompt then praise?
- ❖ Is there an alternative behaviour I could have taught before now that would have avoided this?
- ❖ Is there a counter conditioning behaviour I could ask for now to stop this happening so I can avoid a punishment?
- ❖ Can I use a no reward marker instead?
- ❖ Can I use a time out instead?
- ❖ Is there a reward I can withhold instead?
- ❖ Can I use distraction to give me an opportunity to ask for another behaviour instead?
- ❖ Have I supplied enough 'environmental stimulation' or have I left my puppy to improvise to keep himself amused?
- ❖ Have I in any way unknowingly asked for this behaviour?
- ❖ Have I missed the warning signs that this was coming?
- ❖ Have I made allowances for distraction?

If your answer was 'yes to everything

- ❖ Is this reprimand or correction going to be immediate, that is during the offence?
- ❖ Is this reprimand going to be instructional?
- ❖ Is my reprimand going to alter my puppys behaviour?
- ❖ Will my correction allow him to avoid the punishment, by allowing him to change his response to a correct response?
- ❖ Can I use a verbal warning, and then utilise the 'pause' to elicit a desired behaviour that I can then reward?

Again am I 100% sure that my puppy really knows what I have asked for, or what he should be doing instead?

If there is any doubt then we should give puppy the benefit of the doubt, ask for an alternative behaviour, and reward that,

Then

***Go back and reteach what we wanted in the first place***