

Guide to Training Equipment

Slip Collar (“choke chain”): This well-known piece of equipment is difficult to use properly and potentially dangerous when not applied correctly. It tightens unlimitedly and can damage the dog’s throat if the dog persists in pulling. Meant to be used in a quick, tighten-then-release fashion that is often difficult to apply in real life.

Not Recommended



Prong/Pinch Collar: Despite its appearance, this collar is safe and humane when used properly. The prongs spread pressure out across the dog’s neck instead of concentrating it on the trachea, and the collar has a limited capacity to tighten. Often called “power steering for dogs,” it heightens the sensation of leash pressure but is generally non-painful unless used in an extreme manner. May increase anxiety in reactive dogs, and may pop open if a dog lunges hard enough. Highly recommend Herm Sprenger brand.

*****Recommended****



Martingale/Limited Slip Collar: Like a prong collar, this collar lacks the ability to constrict completely, making it a safer choice than a slip collar. This collar is often used for dogs that can pull out a flat buckle collar, as it fits loose and comfortably when the dog is not pulling, but closes enough to prevent the dog from slipping out when it pulls backwards. For training, a snug fit is recommended. Great for dogs too sensitive for a prong collar.

*****Recommended****



Head Halter: Based on the idea that “where the nose goes, the body will follow”, head halters work by giving the owner leverage over even the strongest dog. While very effective at deterring pulling, many dogs find a head halter repressive, and will work constantly to get it off. Dogs *must* be conditioned to accept the head halter. For dogs that lunge, the head halter can cause whiplash-like neck injuries if they hit the end of the leash hard enough. Does not fit well on snub-nosed breeds, and often rides up into dogs’ eyes.

****Certain Dogs***



Body Harness: A body harness places leash across the dog’s chest. While this is safe and very comfortable for the dog, it also significantly encourages pulling. (“No-pull” and “Easy Walk” harnesses are different). Because of this, body harness are generally not appropriate for class, except on small dogs with delicate tracheas.

****Certain Dogs***

