**Understanding Training Equipment Options - Collars, Leashes and Crates**

Sometimes you just want to enjoy a walk with your dog without being pulled down the street, or training all the time. For those times and others, management equipment can be really helpful. The purpose of equipment for training and management is to limit options available for your dog, until your training is complete. Whether your dog is peeing in the house, chewing destructively or pulling on the leash, there’s management equipment to help you. We designed this short guide to help you find the best equipment for your needs.

\*We recommend the use of a 6’ leash or shorter with the harness or head halter. Retractable leads not recommended.

\*\*The GSLTC does not recommend equipment that adds an aversive (undesirable, fearful) experience in order to decrease unwanted behavior. For more information on aversive and positive techniques, please click

here.

**Equipment for Management**

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| **Equipment** | **Description** | **Function** | **Brand Suggestions** |

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| **Head Halter** | Similar in appearance to a horse’s halter, these collars wrap around the bridge of the dog’s nose and back of the head. The leash connects under the jaw and discourages pulling on leash by turning the dog’s head to the  side. | Most commonly used to manage a dog on a leash when an owner is having difficulty using a classic collar.  *Used for Management* | Gentle Leader Head Halter |
| **Front-Clip Harness** | Front-Clip Harnesses are a new form of harness that allows you to clip the leash to a central area on the front of the dog's chest. Harnesses wrap around the upper body of the dog. | Harnesses were originally designed to leverage a dog’s body weight to pull heavy loads. Today, harnesses can reduce pulling, give an owner increased control and lessen the chance of a dog slipping free. These are a good choice for all sizes of dogs, but especially for small dogs because the harness lessens the potential of damage to delicate neck structures. For some dogs, a harness is a medical alternative to a leash because of collapsed trachea, respiratory problems or bronchitis.  *Used for Management* | Freedom No-Pull Harness (top ring), Easy Walk No-Pull Harness, SENSE-ation No-pull Harness, Kurgo Car Harness with No Pull Front Ring |
| **Walking Harness** | Harnesses wrap around the upper body of the dog. Leash attaches to a ring on the harness at the middle of the dog’s back. | Can reduce pulling, give an owner increased control and lessen the chance of a dog slipping free. Walking harnesses however give handlers very little control of the dog’s front end, but when used with training, they are highly successful.  *Used for Management* | Not recommended as first choice in harnesses. Although the Sporn Harness has some success. |
| **Car Safety Harness** | Safety Harnesses restrain the dog in a car seat using the car's seat belt. | These harnesses reduce the risk of injury to a dog in a vehicle and prevents them from distracting the driver, or escaping from a vehicle.  *Used for Management* | Kurgo Pet Travel Gear |
| **Crates** | Crates come in different sizes and can be purchased at most pet supply stores or pet supply catalogs.  Your dog's crate should be large enough for him to stand up and turn around in. If your dog is still growing, adjustable crates are available for purchase.  Several types of crates are available:   * Plastic (often called "flight kennels") * Fabric on a collapsible, rigid frame * Collapsible, metal pens | "Private room with a view. Ideal for traveling dogs or for those who just want a secure, quiet place to hang out at home."  That's how your dog might describe his crate. A crate is a personal den where your dog can find comfort and solitude while you know he's safe and secure.  Never to be used for punishment, the crate is used for potty training, sleeping, when your dog needs to be left alone, and transport.  *Used for Management* | Multiple brands and designs available in wire, plastic, collapsible, travel and airline approved options. |
| **Dog Pens and Gates** |  | *Used for Management* |  |

**Equipment for Training**

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| **Equipment** | **Description** | **Function** | **Brand Suggestions** |

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| **Classic Collars (Buckle or Quick-connect)** | Buckle or Quick-connect styles can be flat or rolled (for long-haired dogs.) They typically connect with a buckle or plastic fastener. | This is a good everyday collar and a good first choice for training.  *Used for Training* | Multiple brands and designs available. |
| **Classic Collars (Breakaway or Safety Collars)** | Breakaway or Safety Collars have a release that springs open under pressure. | This collar was designed to eliminate choking. The safety release is inactive when a leash is attached.  *Used for Training* | Multiple brands and designs available. |
| **Limited Slip/Martingale** | Collars are made of nylon and have a small chain clasp | Collars that tighten when the dog pulls. A mechanical stop on the collar limits the amount of tightening to prevent choking and also prevents the collar from slipping off of the dog’s head.  *Used for Training* | Multiple brands and designs available. |
| **Standard Leashes** | Nylon, leather or cotton are common materials for these 4-6 foot leashes. | Many trainers recommend this design for everyday use and training since it keeps pets at a manageable distance and is easy to use. Long leads come in 10-60 foot versions, which are helpful for training recalls and other skills.  *Used for Training* | Multiple brands and designs available. |

**Not Recommended**

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| **Slip Collars (also called Choke Chains or Chokers)** | One of the oldest styles of collar often made of chain or nylon. The collar slips over the dog’s head and squeezes the neck when pressure is applied. | Because of timing issues, these devices often aid in creating behavior issues such as stress, fear and aggression. Advances in training and equipment now offer other more humane options for feisty dogs and dogs with behavior issues. | None |
| **Prong or Pinch Collars** | These collars have inward-pointing prongs that press into the dog’s neck when pressure is applied. | Because of timing issues, these devices often aid in creating behavior issues such as stress, fear and aggression. Advances in training and equipment now offer other more humane options for feisty dogs and dogs with behavior issues. | None |
| **Electronic Collars** | The shock collar, remote training collar, or electronic dog collar is most commonly used to keep dogs inside a yard or property, or for behavior issues such as barking. They can be set to shock, beep or vibrate. All electronic collars have the shock functionality, but the beep or vibrate functions are optional. In shock mode, the electronic collar will deliver an electric current to the dog through two contact points at the dog’s neck. | Electric shocks from the collar will cause pain and physical discomfort to the dog, and otherwise is not effective in training your dog. Studies show that automatic collars are dangerous because tying a shock correction to a single trigger event, such as barking or proximity will frequently result in bad timing.  In other words, your dog will make the wrong association and be corrected for the wrong thing. EX: You or the collar corrects for breaking the fence, but your dog sees another dog at the time of the correction. Your dog will generalize the correction to the other dog. This can subsequently lead to aggression and other dog behavioral issues.  Additionally dogs may generalize the correction to the yard itself, and develop fear of exploring new places or being in the yard. Advances in training and equipment now offer other more humane options for feisty dogs and dogs with behavior issues. | None |
| **Retractable Leashes** | This leash consists of a plastic handle in which a spring-loaded cord is stored. The cord unreels and recoils anywhere from 15 to 30 feet, depending on the model; and when the dog moves away or towards their handler. Owners can lock the leash at any time by pushing a button on the handle. | While it is neutral by design, this leash can be detrimental to training a dog to have polite leash manners. It teaches a dog that pulling against the tension of the spring-loaded cord frequently gets reinforced with greater freedom. The lock helps only occasionally, but then a standard leash would work just as well.  Retractable leashes also send the dog confusing mixed messages, ie. “sometimes you have to stay close; sometimes you can go 30 feet away.” Ultimately, this encourages dogs to pull frequently to test the distance allowed at any given time. Additionally, it slips easily from handlers’ grips and is cumbersome to use in training. | None |

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