



Domesti-PUPS

**2021 Service Dog
Training Camp Manual**

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Equipment and Correction

- **Collars**
- **Leashes**
- **Appropriate correction. Low to high.**

Equipment and Corrections [Instructor:]

- Equipment
- “Corrections 101”

The basic equipment you will use begins with a basic leash and collar. Hmmm, what kind? As you develop the bond with your dog, you will find different types of leashes or collars than what we might have provided for you. We’ll show you some different types, and then show you our preferences.

Leashes...

A web leash is always fine, however, should your dog try to pull away from you (because you forgot to scan the area first for squirrels and didn’t anticipate what your dog was about to do next), a web leash can often rip through your hand and leave a burn or sore. Leather leashes are much more comfortable.

Your length of leash will become a personal choice as you develop the relationship with your dog. If your dog is tall, you might want a shorter (4’) leash, or a longer leash (6’) for a shorter dog. We recommend a hands free leash.

The first thing you will be tempted to purchase when you go to the leash aisle is a Flexi-lead. Do not stare at this product too long or you will become entranced and forced to buy it. Don’t fall into the trap! Leave it on the shelf!! Be strong!

Actually, there is one time where we do encourage the use of flexi-leads and that is when a person in a wheelchair is taking their dog outside for a bathroom break. They can stay on the sidewalk while their dog goes to the end of the flexi-leash to do his business. But that is the ONLY time we will use this product.

Collars...

There are a variety of types of collars, and when used appropriately most are effective in their use. We may have even used a multitude of collars on your dog during its training, and then transitioned out of it when finished training the command.

Note: ANY collar used improperly can hurt your dog!

We’ll give you a little background on what is available and why they are used.

Flat Buckle or Rolled Collars

Traditional leather, cotton or nylon buckle, or quick-release collars are good options for everyday collars you can hang your dog's ID tags from. They do not tighten on the dog's neck once they are fastened, and many people find that the rolled variety seems to cause less hair breakage. If your dog tends to pull on leash, however, you do NOT want to use this type of collar for walking.



Halti or Gentle Leader

The dog halter is often used for the dogs which pull the leash. It can be used as the horse halter, but it is usually applied near the eyes, so that it is very uncomfortable for most of the dogs. This halter is not a muzzle and in order to be effective it must be used together with a collar. This collar provides control, but not correction, so you will not teach your dog the desired behavior.



Canny Collar

The Canny Collar is a simple dog training collar designed to stop pulling on the lead and make walking your dog a pleasure.

Comfortable, kind, safe and effective, its revolutionary 'behind-the-head' design makes it easy to fit and simple to use, transforming even the worst pullers into happy, well-behaved pets.



Prong/Pinch Collars

A prong collar puts power-steering into the handling of a dog, and if the handler continues to maintain an alpha relationship with the dog in training, good behaviors learned while on the prong can be transferred successfully to a milder collar. Prong collars do APPEAR to be invasive, however there are times when a disabled individual does not have the hand strength to make a full correction, so the

dog's attention is easily swayed when needed.

Domesti-PUPS recommends...

Martingale-chain Collar with Quick Release



The martingale-chain dog collar has a strap made of nylon material that has rings sewn into both ends similar to the choke chain dog training collar. One ring is sewn with a longer material so that it has a few inches of give and has limited pressure action, but still makes the sound your dog will associate with a correction; dog will not slip out of collar if sized appropriately. We find this collar to be a safe alternative to other collar selections, and should we use any other type of training collar, we would later transition to a collar like this. The martingale collars we use also have a quick-release buckle (important for safety).

Appropriate 'Corrections'

A correction does not equate to you being mean to your dog. A pup learns to respect his mother from the early days of its life. This is the beginning of the pup understanding the concept of pack leadership. A mother will begin to growl when a pup comes near her food, and will possibly even nip the pup if it continues the behavior and gets too close. She will also grab a pup by the scruff of its neck.

Litter mates will also bite one another during play to establish their rank in the pack. As the pups become adults they also expect us to continue corrective actions. Sometimes a correction is a verbal cue, a word, or a physical correction with the leash/collar. The verbal correction is one of the most powerful tools any trainer can use. Using the word "NO" as a means of communicating with a dog can become a tool to shape behaviors as well. It becomes a powerful correction that dogs respect and listen to. The tone you use with a verbal correction is also very important.

Ok, so you've given the dog a command and he is just standing there, doing nothing! So why don't we just tell him again (perhaps he didn't hear us)? And again (maybe he's got wax in his ears)? And when we get angry and raise our voice, he'll know it, and do what we asked of him.

Dogs are very smart, and they do know how to count! As creatures of habit, we will tell the dog a command a specific number of times before we get angry and raise our voice so they know we are serious. The dog will know whether that number is 3, 5 or 8, and he will sit there and count until you get there, and THEN he'll do the command (i.e. Nagging does not equal a correction).

So, if the dog does not respond to a verbal correction, then a leash correction is needed. But timing is everything when it comes to leash corrections. Wait too long and the dog cannot associate the correction with the action. Generally, you have 1.5 seconds to do the physical correction. Don't teach the dog to count corrections either. One ample correction is usually enough to cause the dog to settle down and comply. If the dog does not comply, the correction was not hard enough.

ALWAYS GIVE THE DOG A CHANCE TO COMPLY BEFORE GIVING A CORRECTION.

Please note: We do not condone the use of hitting, beating or spanking any dog.