

# Training Equipment

## Application & Set Up

### What you need to Know

Training equipment is a communication tool — not just a way to control your dog. The goal of using a leash and collar correctly is to teach your dog how to move with you, respect boundaries, and follow calm, structured guidance. Think of it like training wheels to help teach your dog a new skill.

### Why you Need to Know

When equipment is used properly, it allows you to communicate clearly and fairly. Most issues stem from unclear signals or poorly fitted gear, not stubborn dogs. Proper use of training tools teaches your dog how to make better choices, keeps walks calm and controlled, and strengthens your overall relationship. When used properly, the dog should respect you whether they are wearing the equipment or not.

## The How

### Position Up High



Position the collar high on your dog's neck, just under the jawline rather than low near the shoulders. This placement gives you more control with less effort and helps your cues stay clear and gentle. A low collar position allows the dog to brace or ignore leash communication, while a high position keeps your guidance precise and fair.

### Type Active

The type of collar you use matters. Choose a tool that applies and releases pressure smoothly — such as a slip leash, slip collar, martingale, prong collar, or halti — not a harness or flat collar. These “active” tools communicate clearly by turning pressure on and off, while harnesses and flat collars often create resistance and confusion. Using proper equipment ensures the dog learns to follow light pressure instead of pushing against it. Talk to your trainer if your dog has a tendency to choke on a collar.

### Application On vs Off

Use leash pressure like a language: on to stop or redirect behavior, and off to reward calm and correct choices. Pressure should be applied in a quick, *clear pop* — *never a pull*. Hanging on the leash dulls communication and increases frustration for both you and your dog. Think of pressure as a momentary cue, not a restraint — timing and release are what make the message clear.

