

Training Collars

The philosophy of the KCKC training staff is:

- ❖ Showing the dog what you want
- ❖ Positively reinforcing the desired response
- ❖ Practicing to insure your dog understands what you want
- ❖ Correcting the dog if he chooses not to comply with your wishes, but only if you are certain he knows what you are asking him to do , and then
- ❖ Positively reinforcing the correct response.

To help dog handlers achieve their goals in training, there are nearly as many different types of training collars as there are types of dogs. The training staff at KCKC does not believe that any one collar is 100% workable for all dogs, at all times, in all situations. Incorrectly used any collar can cause damage to the neck vertebrae, and possibly the larynx, as well as be turned into a “pulling harness” by the dog.

Here is a quick overview of the most common training collars and how they work.

Buckle Collar: commonly used in training on puppies and compliant dogs. This is the collar of choice for KCKC instructors in Puppy Socialization and for most dogs in our beginning Basic Class. This is, also, the collar ALL dogs should wear (with their identification and rabies tags attached) everyday. When fitted properly, you should be able to just barely slide two fingers between the collar and your dog’s neck.

Training Collar: also known as a slip or choke collar, has been one of the most common training collars used in the U. S. The instructors at KCKC recommend a slip collar that also buckles around the dog’s neck allowing for a “high and tight” fit around the neck with only a very small amount of the collar pulling out to attach to the leash. Your instructor can provide and fit this collar for your dog if (s)he feels it would provide benefit to you and your dog. KCKC charges a nominal fee of \$6.00 for these collars. Used incorrectly with harsh leash corrections, these collars can cause severe damage to the neck and trachea of the dog.

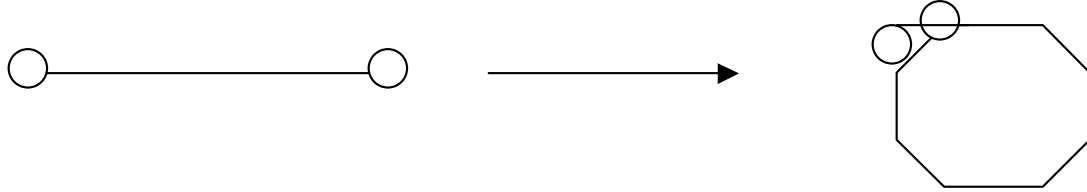
Prong Collar: while the prong collar does resemble a medieval torture device, when used correctly, it is a very humane training collar for dogs that have heavily muscled necks and a high pain tolerance. Since the force created when this collar tightens is applied around the top of the neck, there is virtually no harm done to the trachea of the dog. The dog self-corrects in this collar as the handler does not jerk or pull on the leash. The prong collar should not be used unless an instructor has advised you to use one, showed you how to correctly put the collar on, adjusted it so that it fits correctly, and instructed you on the proper way to use it. **Never use the prong collar to control an aggressive dog as it can make the situation worse!**

Gentle Leader or Halti: the newest addition to the arsenal of training aides the Gentle Leader and Halti are designed with the idea that if you have control of the dog’s head, (s)he can’t get too far away. The G.L./Halti provides “power steering” if used correctly and is a good tool when shaping a behavior. G.L./Halti collars are designed to allow the dog to “self correct”. They **are not** designed to allow you to make corrections with the leash. It is imperative that you follow the product directions for both fitting the G.L./Halti and its proper use to achieve the results listed in the product’s advertising. The G.L./Halti collars were designed to control over exuberant, dominant dogs and therefore should not be used on submissive or compliant ones.

Putting on a Slip Training Collar.

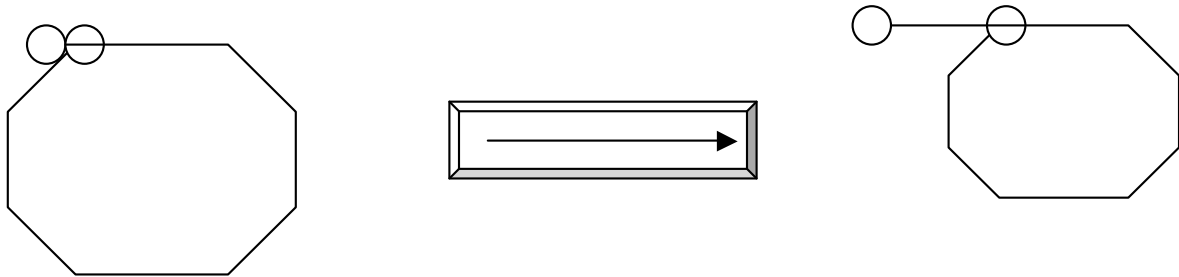
There is a correct way to put on a training collar to insure that it works correctly.

1. Slip the chain through one of the two end rings forming a large "O".



For the buckle around clip collars, hold the sliding ring and the ring on the end in your left hand. Hold the snap in your right hand. With the dog sitting at your left side or in front of you, put the collar over the dog's head bringing the snap (in your right hand) around under the dogs' neck and attach the snap to the sliding ring. Looking at your dog from the front, its collar should look like the diagram in #2 below.

2. Take the empty ring in your left hand and the rest of the O in your right, you will notice that the collar now resembles a side-way "P".



3. With your dog sitting on your left hand side, slip the collar over his head, make sure the stem of the side-way P goes across the top of the neck and the empty ring is attached to your leash. This allows the collar to operate correctly.

