# Equipment

## General Comments

## Collars

## Leads

## Crates

## Toys

## Other Stuff

General Comments

## When choosing equipment, need to consider:

### Size of dog

### Conformation (body structure)

### Temperament, prior training, & sensitivity

### Handler size & manner

## In general, smaller, calmer, & older dogs need less specialized equipment.

## If training is not done properly, the dog can become “equipment wise” (behaves well only when the equipment is used).

Collars

## Need to be fit properly (most folks fit them too loosely).

## Are a variety of styles:

### Flat

## Can be made from a variety of materials.

## There are quite a few styles.

## Should be strong enough & fit properly (2 finger rule).

## Careful with plastic snapping parts that give the illusion of strength.

### Slip or choke

## Are a variety of styles.

## Gives more control than flat collar.

## Should not be worn all of the time.

## Metal version can saw off hair on long coated dog (hence *“fursavers”*).

## *“P rule”* for putting on.

### Martingale, limited, or humane choke

## Are safer than normal slip collars.

## Can be all cloth, metal & cloth, or all metal.

### Prong or pinch

## Is power steering. Becomes almost essential with very large/powerful breeds & small/frail handlers. Also helps when it is icy outside.

## Note quick release, rubber tips, sharpening, German study.

### Halti, gentle leader, or promise

## Gives control in a gentle way (like mom did?).

## Must use carefully to avoid neck problems.

## Most dogs require training to tolerate it.

### Ecollar

* Also called *Electric Pulse Training Aids* (EPTAs).
* Are 3 kinds:
  1. Bark
  2. General
  3. Containment
* Continually improve with technology. For example, over they years they have shrunk considerably, now give variable levels of stimulation, & are more reliable.
* *Paging feature* (vibration) is noteworthy.
* Their use is controversial & some devices are banned in some countries.

Leads

## Short (3-6 ft)

### Vary in length, material, & strength.

### Many areas have leash laws.

### I prefer brass or stainless snaps to the chrome plated varieties (especially with problem dogs).

## Tabs

### Essentially a short leash for in-close guiding.

### It can vary from a couple of inches to ≈ a foot.

### It also helps in finding the ring on the collar.

## Flexi

### Vary in length, style, & strength.

### NEVER grab the cord!

### Do NOT use with a halti collar.

## Long lines

### Used to transition to off lead work.

### Also used in tracking.

Crates

## Folks typically err on the side of getting too large a crate. Should be thought of as a wolf’s den (small cozy place).

## Crate Styles

## Airline - Required for airline travel. BTW, the reflexive tendency to remain close to walls is called *Thigmotaxis*. Dogs show this & thus this is a nice crate for them.

* Open-Air - Are cooler with greater visibility & air flow. Can be covered with a blanket to make more Cozy.

## Carrier - for smaller dogs.

## Soft-Sided - More convenient, but require training.

Toys

## Balls - A mainstay. There is plenty of variety.

## Kongs - Stronger than balls & bounce funny.

## Dummies or Bumpers - They float, can be thrown far, & are durable.

## Tugs - Most dogs love the game of tug (is controversial).

## Buster Cubes - Keeps dog occupied for a while. Cheaper alternative is a bone with peanut butter or squeeze cheese slathered inside.

## Etc

Other Stuff

## Treats - small & moist are best.

## Harnesses - good if you want dog to pull

## Target Sticks

## Dog Doors

## Electronic & other fencing, x-pens

## Muzzles - Management tool. Two kinds.

## Springer - To bicycle with a dog more safely.

## Etc