

SUMMARY GUIDE TO STUFF WE PUT ON OUR DOGS TO WALK THEM



FLAT BUCKLE OR SNAP COLLAR

Description: This is the good old stand by collar that is usually just as it sounds; flat webbing with a belt like buckle or quick snap closure. It can be made of a variety of material but they are all flat and wide in varying sizes and thicknesses.

Pro: These collars are inexpensive, easy to find, come in a variety of styles, colours, and can be customized with id plates or embroidery. Can be left on and worn for extended periods of time.

Cons: They can slip off of some dogs' heads that have thick neck and narrow heads. They do not provide any mechanical advantage for restraining your dog.



Equivalent: Like a tie maybe! Sure, you grab the tie to pull the person towards you but you should not be dragging them around by the tie all the time and you should certainly not be strangling anyone with a tie! If you pull them towards you, they should get a reward for coming!

Purpose: Provides a place to attach ID tags, and a leash attachment point for mild guidance. Plus, it can be a fashion item! This is NOT a training tool.



FRONT AND BACK CLIP HARNESS

Description: a full body harness that is well fitted does not interfere with gait or chinch when pulled. It distributes the weight of the dog as much as possible to the widest area.

Pros: Safest restraint for the dog when at full pull. Front clip can provide extra mechanical advantage to turn a dog away from trigger/distraction.

Cons: Can be hard to find a good escape proof fit. Good quality can be expensive.



Human Equivalent: This restraint is a lot like a fall arrest harness for humans. If fitted and designed properly it will withstand the full weight of the person without injury.

Purpose: to restrain a dog safely. This is NOT a training tool.



HEAD HALTERS

Description: There are a couple of industry standard brands that include Halti and Gentle Leader. These are specifically designed to minimize discomfort and distraction for the dog. They sit quite loosely on the dog's face and only put pressure on the snout when pulled. They have a flat webbing material and often a padding on the top of the snout portion to minimize chaffing and distribute pressure.

Pros: Gives a handler quite a bit of mechanical advantage to control the dog's head in an emergency. The Halti can be used to pull the snout down or up. Pulling up with the Halti will also tend to close the dog's mouth. A Gentle leader does not do this. The flat webbing minimizes visual obstruction and eliminates pinch points around the head and under the neck.

Cons: Like anything that is put on the dog, they may not like it at first. Having things on their face especially can be disconcerting or irritating. Too many people misuse these halters for giving dog's a "correction" or "leash pop" and never wean off of them by training the dog to walk loosely on regular leash and/or harness. Halters should only be used on large dogs when the safety of a handler is a great risk. If you can hold a dog back on a flat collar or harness, I do not recommend using halters at all. Head halters cannot be used alone and should have a collar or harness as a back up anchor. Risk of neck injury is a concern as well and leashes attached should be kept short to prevent lunging and snapping neck. NEVER use a long line with a head halter.



Horse Equivalent: Head halters on dogs serve the same purpose they do on horses, which is to give the handler better control of the animal's head and hence control of the body.

Purpose: To give handler more mechanical advantage by controlling the dogs head in order to restrain a dog. This is NOT a training tool.



WIDE MARTINGALE COLLAR

Description: A type of collar designed to prevent dogs from slipping out of their collars. It consists of a secondary loop that tightens when the dog pulls on the leash to tighten around the jaw bone without a full choke.

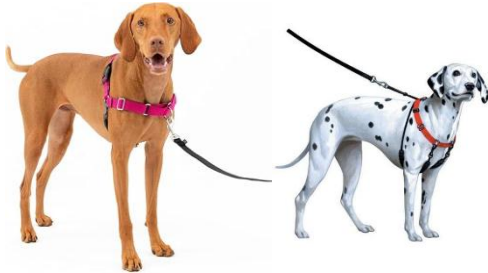
Pros: Stays on very well even for the flighty and scared dogs that panic. Can be easy to use as it should slip over the dog's head for easy on, easy off when secondary loop is not tightened. These collars can also stay on for extended periods of time and be used to hold id tags on the primary loop hardware much like a standard flat buckle collar.

Cons: Owner misuse is the main problem because they can be adjusted too tightly so that they do also choke. As with any collar it can be mis-used to give a jarring "correction" or "leash pop". It does not give you any extra control to restrain the dog except to hold them back, like a flat buckle collar.



Equivalent: Martingales work like a belt on your pants. They should normally be loose and comfortable but tighten around your hips if you try to pull your pants down. A Martingale is designed to keep the collar on like a belt is designed to keep pants on. Also, just like you can grab someone by the belt to drag them in a certain direction, same can be done with a Martingale but it does not give you any mechanical advantage.

Purpose: To keep the collar on a dog while attached to a leash. This is NOT a training tool.



“NO PULL HARNESS”

Description: These are harnesses that are marketed to stop pulling automatically for you without the need for training. They do this by interfering with the dog’s gait, pinching under the arm pits, or squeezing the shoulder blades together. Some may also come with a front clip option but they are not the same as a proper front clip

harness as listed above.

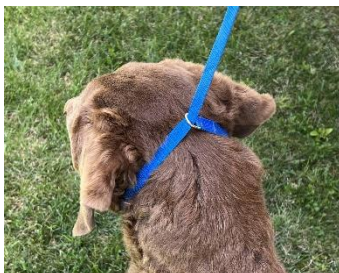
Pros: Can appear to provide a quick fix without any training required on the owner’s part. They are usually the cheapest harnesses you can buy.

Cons: Kind of stated in the description and pros already but the main con is they make the dog uncomfortable or even painful and therefore make walks unpleasant without ever addressing the loose leash walking problem.



Equivalent: Ladies will understand! These harnesses are like the worst ill-fitting bras that pinch, dig, bind, chafe.

Purpose: Interrupt gait or cause discomfort to stop pulling.



SHOW LEAD/SLIP LEAD

Description: A slip lead is a type of leash that combines a collar and leash in one, allowing for quick tightening and loosening. They are typically made from materials like nylon rope or webbing, or leather. Show leads work the same way but tend to be made of even thinner/lighter material. Makers of this lead instruct that it should sit high up on the dog’s neck right behind the ears.

Pros: These leashes/collar combos are cheap, easy to use, and one size fits all. They can be used to control a dog’s movements via strangulation. Because strangulation is highly stressful for any animal, they tend to respond reflexively like a gag reflex with very little pressure applied. Hence,

they are often used to restrain a potentially aggressive or unknown dog. Their open loop/lasso style makes them very useful for catching loose or stray dogs while it keeps your hands and face away from their mouths and teeth! They can be used to break up a dog fight/attack by using their choking ability to strangle a dog until it releases its bite/hold on another dog or person. They are often used in places where dogs are moved around a lot and/or that don't have properly fitted collars.

Cons: All of their pros as an emergency tool make these leashes extremely harmful and dangerous for use as everyday leashes and collars. The only thing the dog feels when the leash tightens is strangulation.



Equivalent: Slip leads literally feel like being choked. The recommended placement of the leash directly behind the ears places it in the most sensitive area. Just like it would feel for us to be grabbed by the upper throat with a finger poking in behind our ears!

Purpose: to control a dog's head via strangulation.

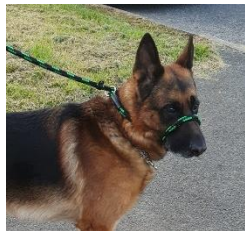


FIGURE 8 HALTER:

Description: This is basically a jerry rigged/make shift head halter from a slip lead. It is very often made from a cheap, thin rope slip lead. It wraps snugly over the snout just below the eyes, crosses over under the throat and loops back behind the neck or just behind the ears. It must be snug to hold in place.

Pro: Cheap, one size fits all, highly restrictive of head providing firm control.

Cons: So restrictive many dogs freeze or try to rub it off their face. Can rub into the eyes and is a visual obstruction if rope leads are used. Cheap rope leads stretch a little so can pinch/chafe around nose and eyes each time it's tightened. It sits firmly around many nerves and blood vessels that are close to the surface on the head, and creates a bulge where the rope crosses over under the throat. Not being able to move and see normally often causes frustration, anxiety, and fear and even aggression.



Equivalent: Imagine having your head restricted in a full neck brace with an uncomfortable lining. If you don't move it's "fine". Trying to move and it can bind, pinch, strain or be impossible.

Purpose: to control a dog's head via pressure points.



CHOKE CHAIN OR CHECK COLLAR

Description: Choke chains are nothing more than chain slip leads. They function the same way by restricting around the neck. They are however supposed to be used on a specific side of the dog so that they release after each tighten.

Pros: They are cheap, easy to fit on many dogs. They are chew proof so dogs that chew through leashes can no longer do so.

Cons: The heavier metal material adds a noise and “slap” to the sudden tighten of the collar. Their intended use can be very difficult to learn for the average person and keeping in proper position is very difficult. All other cons of the slip lead apply here to. Receiving painful stimuli can often cause aggression, anxiety, and fear.



Equivalent: Much like the slip lead, the choke chain chokes but only for a “second” and then again, and again. Imagine being dropped on a noose but rebounding from a trampoline below!

Purpose: to deliver a punishment via leash “pop” and clink noise.



PRONG COLLAR

Description: It is usually made of metal with spikes/prongs that dig into the dog’s neck. It has a secondary chain loop like a martingale collar that allows for a partial choke.

Pros: some people claim it stops a dog from pulling on lead with less strength required by the handler.

Cons: its sole purpose is to deliver punishment/pain/discomfort when the prongs dig/pinch into the skin. The “proper” use of them is difficult to master. Recommended placement of behind the ears is almost impossible to maintain. They can actually puncture the skin. Receiving painful stimuli can often cause aggression, anxiety, and fear.



Equivalent: The proponents of the prong collar often say that it replicates the mother dogs’ teeth when giving a correction to her puppies. So, they agree it’s like being bitten by a dog! If a mother dogs is correcting her puppies like this we should take the puppies away for their safety!

Purpose: to deliver a punishment via pain or discomfort.



SHOCK COLLAR

Description: A collar that is battery operated that has two prongs that contact the skin and deliver an electrostatic shock. Some of these collars can have multi-functions such as vibration modes or sound modes as well as the shock. It is not intended to be used as a walking collar attached to a leash as the electric prongs would dig into the skin if leash was tightened. Kind of like a prong collar with only two prongs!

Pro: It can stop a behavior dead in it's tracks in the moment via the shock if voltage is high enough. It can be used off leash, at a distance.

Cons: Very expensive for a "quality" one. Is prone to abuse and requires a lot of handlers training and knowledge in order to use. It can cause burn damage to skin of neck if used too often, at too high a setting, if it malfunctions, or is left on too long. Can kill if used on a small dog or one with a heart condition. It only delivers a punishment.



Equivalent: it is nothing more than a cattle prod designed to fit around a dog's neck. At a mild setting it is like getting a shock from sticking your tongue on two battery ends. At a high setting it is a painful electric shock.

Purpose: to deliver a punishment via electric shock.

IS YOUR WALK POSITIVE OR PUNISHING? PLEASANT OR PUNATIVE?