



Grafton Dog Obedience Club Inc.

THE RIGHT COLLAR FOR YOUR DOG

There are many different types of collars available, so choosing the most appropriate one for your dog can seem a difficult task.

A plain flat webbing clip on or buckle on collar is the most popular collar. These are excellent for your dog to wear at home (complete with a tag showing your dog's name, plus your address and phone number). If you are concerned about your dog getting his collar snagged when you aren't at home, there is a "breakaway" collar available that comes undone easily if your dog gets caught.

If your dog is well behaved and walks politely on lead, a plain flat collar is also suitable for using on your daily walk. Choose a collar that is an appropriate strength and weight for your dog. Small dogs only need a fairly narrow collar with a light, small buckle or clip, whereas a big, strong dog will need a much stronger collar and fittings.

Another very popular collar for walking and training is the martingale (or limited slip) collar. These are also usually made from soft webbing, and have a second loop which when tightened prevents the dog from slipping it's collar. These are an excellent choice for those dogs that have learned to pull back and slip their collar, but are still a gentle collar. Never leave a martingale collar on your dog when alone as it is possible for your dog to get caught and hang himself.

Check chains (also called choker chains) were used for training in the past. They were usually made from metal, but occasionally from webbing. They have been known to cause neck damage when pulled tight. Sadly, I know of a couple of much loved dogs that died from hanging themselves when wearing a check chain and left unattended. Modern training methods have made the check chain an obsolete piece of training equipment.

Some dogs cough when walked in a collar due to a fragile trachea. These dogs are often happy being walked in a harness that avoids any pressure on the neck. For dogs with slender necks such as Whippets, Salukis and Greyhounds, there are special hound collars available which are much wider than a normal collar and therefore much more comfortable for their fragile necks. If you want something special for your dog, flat collars, martingale collars and hound collars are all available in wonderful patterns and designs. There's bound to be one exactly right for your special friend!

However, if your dog is very large, strong, or difficult to manage around other dogs or people, you might prefer to have him wear a head collar as well for maximum control.

For growing dogs, check and adjust the collar regularly to make sure it doesn't become too tight as your dog grows (you should always be able to easily run two fingers between the collar and your dog's neck).

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