Stage

3




# A TRAINER'S TOOLBOX

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# Stage 3: A TRAINER'S TOOLBOX

Congratulations! Welcome to Stage 3 – A Trainer's Toolbox. In this stage, you will be introduced to many types of dog training tools, such as training equipment, products, and toys. While ABC strongly believes the key component to a successful dog training program is a mutually respectful, trusting, and committed relationship between a dog and dog owner, we also understand that training tools can often expedite and supplement the training process.

## Goals



The following are the goals set for you to complete in the Trainer's Toolbox stage:

- An introduction to basic dog training equipment, including:
    1. Clickers
    2. Food Treats and Pouches
    3. Collars
    4. Harnesses
    5. Leads and Leashes
    6. Crates
    7. Safety Equipment
- An introduction to assorted dog training products, including:
    1. Housetraining Aids
    2. Chewing Deterrents
    3. Containment Systems
    4. Boundary Training Aids
- An introduction to a variety of chew toys and play toys, including:
    1. Natural Bones
    2. Plastic Bones
    3. Interactive Toys

## Basic Training Equipment

All training tools are options and need to be used with care and complete awareness of the possible effects on the dog. ABC does not necessarily approve or disapprove the use of any of



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the training equipment shown in this section; however, we are a learning institution committed to providing our students with a diverse education.

There are many tools in a professional dog trainer's toolbox. No single product or piece of equipment will work for every dog or every situation. ABC Certified Dog Trainers should become knowledgeable in the use and application of as many tools as they possibly can.

Being able to choose the most effective tools for each situation will help bridge the gap between humans and canines and will facilitate learning. It is extremely important that all training equipment is fitted properly and training products are used correctly. The inappropriate use of products and equipment often render the items useless or even dangerous. Professional dog trainers have a responsibility to be able to instruct dog owners in the safe and humane use of each training tool.

As an ABC Certified Dog Trainer you should help each dog owner develop a strong relationship and commitment to the training of his dog, thus decreasing or eliminating the use of some or all of the training equipment and products permanently.

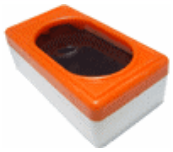
The items listed in this section represent a small percentage of the vast and growing range of training equipment, products, and toys at your disposal. ABC Certified Dog Trainers are well-rounded professionals who are educated and familiar with a myriad of training tools. This education allows them to make informed decisions regarding the appropriate and effective use of various training tools.



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## Clicker





A clicker is a small training tool that fits in the palm of your hand. It can come in a variety of colors, shapes, and sizes. Pressing the clicker causes it to emit a loud, sharp "clicking" sound.

**Usage**

The clicker by itself does not do much in terms of training a dog. However, when the sound of the clicker is paired with something rewarding for the dog, such as a food treat, it becomes a very useful training tool. In short, the clicker becomes a conditioned reinforcer that is able to precisely mark any behavior the instant the dog performs it. Because the dog equates the clicker to an unconditioned reinforcer (i.e., food treat), she learns that the "clicked" behavior is the one you desire.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • The clicker is extremely precise in marking the exact behavior you are looking for, provided your timing is accurate.<br>• The clicker emits the exact same sound each time so the delivery is consistent. When training using verbal praise, our voices tend to vary in tone and volume based on our mood.<br>• The unique sound of the clicker is something the dog has probably never heard before. This will make it stand out to her. | • Some people are uncomfortable with the concept and resistant to trying it.<br>• Timing must be exact or you run the risk of reinforcing the wrong behavior.<br>• Some dogs are very sensitive to the sound. They will either try to escape the sound, or become so distracted by it they cannot concentrate on anything else.<br>• You must remember to bring your clicker to each training session. |



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## Food Treats

Using food treats during training is an efficient way to motivate a dog to try new behaviors. There are many types of treats available in stores today, but you should always try to find healthy treats that your dog finds irresistible. When using training treats, try to keep the size as small as possible, such as the size of a pea. Some dogs fill up on treats quickly, which could decrease their interest level for participating in the training sessions. It is always a good idea to have a variety of treats in your treat pouch because you never know which one will encourage the desired behavior when faced with high-level distractions.

Using training treats during the learning phase of a new behavior can dramatically increase your chances of success. Once a dog understands the desired behavior, you can fade out the use of training treats over a slow period of time. If the dog becomes confused or frustrated at any time, you can always reintroduce a favorite treat to continue to motivate the dog during the training session.

Some of the training treat types we will review include:

- Hard Cookies
- Soft Dog Treats
- Freeze-Dried Treats
- Soft Human Food





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### Hard Cookie Treats

Most dog cookies are flour or wheat-based. They are typically baked and come in multiple sizes and shapes with convenient packaging such as zip closures or re-sealable containers. When using a dog cookie as a training treat, try to find one that comes in a smaller nugget or break larger cookies into smaller pieces.

**Examples:** Baked tiny training treats, bite-sized biscuits or large biscuits broken up into smaller pieces, and baked dog cookies.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Dog cookies are easy to find in most pet stores.<br>• There are many varieties available for finicky dogs.<br>• Some are made of wholesome and nutritional ingredients.<br>• They are typically lower in fat, which is beneficial for overweight dogs. | • Some cookies contain ingredients that can cause allergies in sensitive dogs, such as corn, wheat, sugars, and artificial flavorings.<br>• Some hard cookies are difficult to break into smaller pieces needed for training.<br>• Some hard cookies crumble apart when you break them, leaving crumbs everywhere. This is very distracting for the dog and may inadvertently reward her when she gobbles them up.<br>• Food treat dependency can be a problem when a dog trainer does not know how to train with food properly. |



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## Soft Dog Treats

Most dogs find soft treats irresistible due to their strong aroma and chewy texture. They are considered a high-value training treat and work wonderfully as a lure for a new behavior or for **jackpotting** a perfect performance.

**Jackpotting** is the rapid feeding of approximately five treats, one at a time, to reward a perfect performance.

**Examples:** Any soft training treat that can easily be broken into smaller bits, freeze-dried liver treats, baked can food, or some frozen dog foods.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Many manufacturers produce soft treats in small sizes.<br>• They are easily broken into small pieces.<br>• These treats have a stronger aroma and are softer, making them easier for many dogs to gobble up quickly.<br>• They help motivate most dogs to work harder during a training session.<br>• Most are non-greasy, so they will not stain clothing.<br>• There are many different flavors and sizes available in convenient containers. | • Some contain ingredients that may cause allergies in sensitive dogs, such as sugars, corn, wheat, or artificial flavorings.<br>• Some dogs tend to gain weight when using treats during training, so owners should be advised to decrease the amount of food during scheduled feedings.<br>• Food treat dependency can be a problem when a dog trainer does not know how to properly train with food. |



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**Train Me! Treats by Crazy Pet**

Train Me! Treats are an excellent example of a soft dog treat. They are a highly desirable, highly palatable, real meat treat specifically designed to be used for motivating and training dogs. The high meat content and strong flavor make it very attractive to dogs, thus making it very valuable for reward-based training.




| **Available Sizes:** | **Available Flavors:** |
|---|---|
| 3.5 oz in Stand Up Re-sealable Pouch | Chicken |
| | Liver |
| 1oz. Trial Size in Standard Bag | Bacon |



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| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Small, bite-sized pieces are large enough to reward a dog for good behavior and small enough to use repetitively without satiating hunger.<br>• Soft, moist product can easily be carried in the pocket without crumbling.<br>• High meat content provides high desirability.<br>• The treats are made of human-quality ingredients.<br>• The product comes in a variety of flavors.<br>• The treats have a long, time-proven history. Thousands of dogs have been trained by professional trainers across the United States using the Train Me! Treats.<br>• This product is cooked in a fashion that preserves the nutritive values of the ingredients in the treat. | • Strong odor makes them difficult to conceal.<br>• Food treats can become a problem when a trainer does not know how to effectively prevent a dog from becoming food treat dependent.<br>• Contains sugar and wheat bran which may cause negative reactions in some dogs. |



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**Freeze-Dried Treats**

The basic objective of freeze-drying treats is to remove all water while leaving the basic structure and composition intact. There are two main reasons for doing this:

1. Removing water keeps the food from spoiling for a much longer period of time.
2. The freeze-drying process reduces the total weight of the food treat, which makes it easier to carry and store.

**Example:** An excellent example of a freeze-dried treat is the Stewart® Pro-Treat™. This product is made of all natural freeze-dried liver. It is sold in most major pet stores nationwide. Dogs really seem to like it, which makes it an excellent choice for training. The product also maintains the full flavor and nutritional value of 100% beef liver.




| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Freeze-dried treats have a very long shelf life.<br>• Most dogs find them quite tasty.<br>• They are not greasy and won't stain clothing.<br>• They are lightweight.<br>• They have a strong aroma, which is good for luring.<br>• They do not need to be refrigerated. | • They are not easily broken into small pieces.<br>• They are considered expensive by some.<br>• They have a strong aroma, which is not good for concealing rewards. |



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**Soft Human Food**

Human food may be the ultimate reward for finicky dogs! It is usually soft, but strongly scented and works great as a lure for a new behavior or as a reward for an excellent performance of a known cue (such as a perfect recall). Many dogs seem less distracted when using human food as a primary reinforcer (reward). This is especially true in shy or fearful dogs, mildly dominant dogs, and energetic puppies.

**Examples:** Bits of low-fat cheese, lean deli meats, cut-up hot dogs, pieces of fruit (for overweight dogs), home-baked liver, lean beef jerky, peanut butter in a squeeze tube.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Most soft human food is easily stored in cool areas or can be frozen before class, so it slowly thaws during your training sessions. | • Soft human food must be kept at a cooler temperature than most treats.<br>• Some soft foods can be messy and/or greasy, and may stain clothing.<br>• Dogs should never be fed any foods containing chocolate or onions as these foods are toxic to dogs and can cause a serious medical problem.<br>• Always use lean or low-fat people foods because excessive fat can cause serious intestinal problems. If any intestinal problems should occur, discontinue use of any human food and slowly introduce dog treats (cookies or soft treats). |



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## Treat Pouch

A treat pouch is a convenient storage bag for training treats. Using a treat pouch enables you to carry your treats with you while keeping your hands free. Your pockets stay clean and you have quick and easy access to whatever treats you bring. There are many different types and sizes (S, M, L, XL) available. The one pictured here has a convenient clip-on feature that slips onto a pocket or a belt.



Some treat bags have tops, which can be snapped or closed with a Velcro attachment. The advantage to this is that the treats are less visible and less likely to spill out, should you bend over. A disadvantage is that the treats are not as easy to retrieve when the pouch is closed.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Quick, easy access to treats.<br>• Prevents odor and stains on clothing.<br>• Allows you to carry treats while keeping your hands free. | • Some pouches allow the food to be too visible, making it difficult to hide treats.<br>• Some pouches will allow the treats to spill out, should you bend over.<br>• Some pouches make it tough to reach the treats when the top is closed. |

## Collars

Collar selection should be made based on the needs of the individual dog/owner team. Although personal preference does contribute to the selection, it should not be the determining factor. Different collars will produce different results. Sometimes collar selection should be based on the owner's physical stature, poor timing or lack of overall commitment to the training process. Keep in mind that any collar selected must be effective without triggering any stress responses in the dog. As an ABC Certified Dog Trainer, you need to become skilled in the use of various collars to help ensure the success of the training program for both dog and owner.

### Buckle Collar



A buckle collar has a metal buckle or plastic clip to secure it around the dog's neck and has no moving parts for correction. They can be made from webbed nylon or leather of variable widths. Coastal Pet Products collar (pictured here) is an excellent choice.

**Fit**

A properly fitted buckle collar sits low around the dog's neck. You should be able to fit two fingers sideways between the dog's neck and the collar. The width of the collar should be relative to the size of the dog and take up no more than 1/4 of the dog's total neck length.

**Usage**

A buckle collar can be worn everyday and does not have to be removed when the dog is not training. It is the preferred collar for attaching identification and licenses.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Many buckle collars are adjustable and will fit various sizes of dogs. This is very cost-effective if you have a rapidly growing puppy.<br>• Using this type of collar while training compels the trainer to focus on encouraging the dog to comply with a cue instead of forcing compliance. | • Dogs that love to pull can typically drag their owners around quite easily with this type of collar. In addition, if a dog is allowed to put continuous pressure on the buckle collar it can cause permanent neck damage.<br>• Some dogs learn to slip out of the collar. This can be dangerous when in a busy area or before the dog is reliably trained. |

## Head Collars

The concept of a training tool that allows for more effective control of a large powerful animal is not a new one. Many methods and devices have been explored over the centuries. One highly effective principle states: "when you control the direction of an animal's head, you can more easily control the direction of the animal's body." Horse trainers, as well as those working with camels, have known this for thousands of years.

In dog training, head collars work on this same principle. One of the advantages head collars have over buckle, choke, or pinch collars is their ability to aid the dog handler in achieving a high level of control using far less physical strength. This has revolutionized training as methods requiring less force can be applied by a greater number of people and used on a greater number of dogs.

### Usage

Gentle pressure is all that is typically needed to teach a simple cue like Sit or to stop a dog from pulling her owner down the street. Head collars are sometimes marketed as "power steering for dogs." They are often mistaken for muzzles.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Head collars generally offer immediate control over dogs who drag their owners down the street on buckle or choke collars.<br>• It is a self-correcting collar.<br>• It is thought by many training professionals to be the most humane and safe of all collars. | • Some dogs take a very long time to get used to the head collar. They may even throw themselves on the floor, pawing at their nose or freeze up and refuse to move. If using a Halti®, the resistance is typically short-lived and can easily be overcome with the use of positive reinforcement. If using a Gentle Leader®, the problem is often that the collar is not properly fitted on the dog. Read through the instructions that come with the Gentle Leader® and adjust the collar accordingly. |

There are several different types of head collars. The three most popular ones are the Control Ease ®, the Halti® and the Gentle Leader®. Regardless of preference, head collars are a must for every trainer's toolbox.

**Control Ease®**

After years of analyzing and researching the pros and cons of numerous head collar designs, Coastal Pet Products created a modern and advanced head collar called Control Ease®. The Control Ease® collar was also designed with the input of numerous professional trainers. This collar allows the dog to freely drink, pant, and eat. It fits comfortably, making it easier for some dogs to get used to wearing it. Its unique locking mechanisms prevent slippage, which is why, when properly fitted, the collar tends to not slip off as easily as some other head collars. The Control Ease® head collar is great for obedience training and helping to correct problem behaviors such as jumping and pulling. The Control Ease® head collar simplifies training, has an easy-to-use cam lock, allows your dog to



pant, and is great for most dogs with hard-to-fit short snouts like Boxers and Rottweilers. This product also offers the very unique feature of a padded nose band which provides extra comfort for your dog's nose and is less likely to ride in your dog's eyes than other head collars, making it probably the most comfortable fit of all. This product is of high quality, meaning it is strong and durable. Many trainers who like Gentle Leader find that Control Ease is quite similar. However, Control Ease is usually less expensive than the Gentle Leader which makes it easier to recommend for your students on a tight budget. Ask for Control Ease® at your local pet store. You can also find out where to purchase this outstanding product by checking out www.coastalpet.com.

**Halti®**



The Halti® head collar is one of the original head collars and a product that revolutionized training. Prior to the Halti®, the choke chain was the collar of choice amongst a great many companion dog trainers. Back then, when a choke chain failed to get the desired result, especially with overly rambunctious dogs, it was common for trainers to suggest a pinch collar. With the introduction of Halti®, trainers had a totally different choice and didn't have to utilize choke or pinch collars. Although a myriad of factors led to a large number of trainers moving away from choke chains, the mass marketing of Halti®, as well as the education of a new generation of trainers about the benefits of positive training methods were among the things that helped facilitate a real paradigm shift in training methods and attitudes. Halti® was invented by a well-known trainer/behavioral specialist in the United Kingdom. The Halti® also offers the dog freedom of mouth movement. The Halti® is fitted by slipping the nose band gently over the muzzle and then taking the strap of the collar around to the back of the neck to fasten the buckle. The nose band should lie midway between the eyes and the nose, but not restrict panting. This can be adjusted by loosening or tightening the collar. Initially, the Halti® should be fitted snugly to reduce the chance of the dog removing it. Halti® is distributed by Coastal Pet Products, ask for it at your local pet store.

**Gentle Leader®**



When the Gentle Leader® is fitted properly, the dog is free to open her

mouth to eat, drink, pant, fetch, bark and even bite – except when her mouth is closed by pulling on the leash. The Gentle Leader® features two soft nylon straps. The neck strap should be positioned as high on the neck as possible. It should be directly behind the ears and touching the base of the skull in back while above the Adam's apple in front. The nose strap is fitted and comfortable across the muzzle. As noted above, the Control Ease is a similar product often at a better price point.

**➲Step-by-Step Training**

**Introducing the Head Collar**

It is important for all trainers to understand how to get a dog used to working on a head collar to make training sessions as pleasurable and productive as possible.

**Getting Started**

Some dogs will accept a head collar with little or no objection, while others need to learn to become comfortable with wearing one.

If you have a client whose dog is already used to wearing a head collar or whose dog accepts the collar with little or no resistance, you won't need to follow the directions in this section. However, as a responsible and professional dog trainer, it's important for you to understand how to address head collar resistance, so please read on.

If a dog constantly paws at the collar or rubs her head against various objects in an attempt to remove it, please address the following question and then try a few preliminary steps:

**"Is the collar on correctly?"**

1. Be sure to re-read the instructions. Make sure it's not uncomfortably tight or too loose.
2. Assuming it's on correctly; allow the dog to wear the head collar for approximately five to ten minutes.
3. During this time, be sure to praise, feed, and play with her to make the experience of wearing the collar extremely positive. This special attention typically serves to distract most dogs, thus preventing them from attempting to remove the collar.
4. It is also important to avoid taking the collar off just because the dog resists wearing it.

Any attempts to remove the head collar should be addressed by distracting the dog even further. This can be accomplished through the use of a favorite squeaky toy, ball, or even a small, super special treat. If she succeeds in getting the collar off, simply put it back on and continue your lesson. Do not attempt any obedience during these initial sessions. Avoid scolding the dog for any reason and make the sessions as positive as possible.

When five to ten minutes have passed, remove the collar. After two to four sessions, most dogs will wear the head collar with little or no objection. When the dog reaches this point, you are ready to progress to obedience.

If the dog is making some progress (i.e., is less resistant than when you started), try another four sessions and reassess. Most dogs will accept and readily wear a head collar after minimal amounts of training.

If after completing the suggested sessions the dog is still resistant and has made little or no progress, try the training suggestions noted below.

If you have a client whose dog is still resistant to wearing the head collar, don't worry. Teaching a resistant dog to accept a head collar is fairly simple provided some basic rules are followed.

1. Start by showing the dog the head collar. Do not put the collar on the dog at this time. Give her small treats, praise, petting, or whatever she finds rewarding. Practice this light and positive exposure to the head collar for at least two or three sessions. After that time, the dog should be extremely positive when she sees the collar.

2. Once you see the dog consistently acting in a positive fashion (i.e., tail wagging, excited) when exposed to the collar, put the head collar on her, treat, then remove the collar. Repeat this process three times per day for about a week. Assuming she remains positive, slowly get the dog used to wearing the head collar by increasing the time she wears it at the rate of one or two minutes per day.

**Important Note:** Never leave any dog unattended on this or any other type of training collar.

3. After seven days of wearing the head collar, start attaching a leash to the head collar when the dog is wearing it. Let her drag the leash around and treat her during this process. After a week of this you should be able to easily train the dog with the head collar.

4. Remember - it is critical for you to create a direct association between the head collar and fun, quality time. To facilitate this, you can try a number of things including:

   - If the dog likes playing fetch, do so while she is wearing the head collar.
   - Take her for a fun walk while she is wearing the head collar.
   - Play with the dog and her favorite toys while she is wearing the head collar.
   - Give the dog some special treats while she is wearing the head collar.
   - Pay constant attention to her while she is wearing the head collar.

**Video**

For a demonstration about the different head collars and how to properly put one on a dog, visit http://animalbehaviorcollege.com/video/video_player_training.asp?VideoID=4

*Please note: You must first be logged in to the ABC Student Center before entering the above website into the address bar of your internet.*

## Standard Pinch or Prong Collar



The standard pinch collar is made of interlocking metal links; each link has two blunt prongs that are designed to pinch the dog's skin. The links are attached to each other in a circular fashion and further attached to a circle of smaller interlocking links at the back of the collar. This smaller circle of chain is where the leash is attached (see illustration). When the leash is pulled, the collar constricts, which causes the prongs to pinch into the dog's skin.

These collars were once far more commonly used than they are today. Many trainers have never used pinch collars, although well-rounded trainers are at least knowledgeable about them and their applications.

### Fit

The first step in fitting the pinch collar is to determine what link size is appropriate for the dog. There are five link sizes: X-Small, Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large. Choose a link size that allows the collar to fit snugly around the neck with at least six links in the collar. The pinch collar should fit snugly, high up on the neck right behind the dog's ears. This collar *must* be snug on the dog's neck. If it is loose or rides too low on the dog's neck, it can cause injury. This collar is not designed to be slipped over the dog's head. Instead, you need to separate the collar at one of the links, place it around the dog's neck right behind the ears and reconnect the links. This does take some practice, so experiment with the collar until you are comfortable before putting it on the dog.

### Usage

The pinch collar is designed to cause immediate discomfort to the dog, thus suppressing unwanted behavior. ***Pinch collars should not be used on puppies less than six months of age.***

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • A very slight collar correction will typically produce instantaneous results.<br>• Unlike the slip collar, the pinch collar has limited constriction ability. If fitted properly, it is designed to constrict just enough to allow the pinch action, while assuring that the dog's neck isn't severely constricted by the collar.<br>• This collar is self-correcting if fitted properly. | • Pinch collars look intimidating to most pet owners and are not very popular in the public eye.<br>• Pinch collars can easily be painful to a dog if misused or put on incorrectly. This pain can cause dangerous temperament changes in dogs, especially those that may already be shy or aggressive.<br>• Pinch collars may give dog owners the impression that training a dog requires the use of force, thus undermining the importance of relationship building.<br>• Improperly timed corrections can easily cause a dog to adopt negative associations to other dogs and people. |

## Slip Collar



The slip collar is commonly referred to as a choke collar or training collar. This collar can be made from a number of materials, including fine link steel chain, flat nylon, mountain-type rope, or a large link steel chain called a "fur saver." Regardless of the material, they all have the same basic design. A slip collar has one large ring, from ½ to 1 inch in diameter, at each end of the collar. When the material is pulled through one of the rings, a circle is made. One ring of the circle is moveable, forming a slip action.

**Fit**

Most slip collars come in two-inch increments, for instance: 12, 14, or 16-inch collars, etc. For most dogs, you would simply measure the circumference of the dog's neck and add approximately two inches. To fit a slip collar on a dog with a skull larger than its neck measurement (i.e., Rottweilers and Mastiffs), you will need to measure the skull from where the neck meets the jaw, over the ears to the top of the head and then add approximately one inch. The collar should fit over the head without using force. When a slip collar is put on correctly, the "live" (moveable) ring should come from over the dog's neck, if the dog is on your left side. The "dead" (stationary) ring should come from under the neck. This allows the collar to fully release when leash pressure is removed.

**Usage**

A slip collar is used by some trainers to deliver negative reinforcement (sustained pressure on the collar until the dog offers the desired behavior) or positive punishment (quick tug on the leash/collar) corrections. A slip collar should only be worn during training, not as an everyday collar to house identification or licenses.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • When fitted and used properly, slip collars can be effective in quickly suppressing an unwanted behavior.<br>• They come in a variety of materials, from fairly soft (rope or nylon) to fairly hard (chain), giving the trainer a large range of applications. | • Slip collars can easily be used incorrectly by novice trainers and dog owners. This can cause severe neck damage, as well as temperament damage in dogs.<br>• Improperly timed corrections can easily cause a dog to adopt negative associations to other dogs and people.<br>• Improper use of slip collars can imply to dog owners that training a dog requires the use of force, thus undermining the importance of relationship building.<br>• Slip collars do not have a safety device to prevent strangulation. If the collar is put on incorrectly it can continue to choke the dog, even if the handler releases the pressure.<br>• Although it is potentially dangerous to allow a dog to wear any kind of training collar while unsupervised, slip collars are particularly dangerous in this regard. Essentially, slip collars are nooses. Each year, hundreds of dogs accidentally strangle themselves when left unattended wearing slip collars. |

## Electronic Remote Trainers (Electronic Collars)



The use of electronic collars is an extremely controversial subject amongst professional dog trainers. Whether you opt to utilize an electronic collar or not, we believe it is important that you have a basic understanding of them. Generally, an electronic collar is a device that is operated remotely to either cue or correct a dog. Most electronic collars consist of two main components: a receiver and a hand-held transmitter. When activated, the collar can deliver a sonic sound that all can hear, an ultrasonic sound that only dogs or cats can hear, a vibration, a spray (air, lemon, or citronella), or a static electronic stimulation. Many of these stimulations can be adjusted for intensity, and the range (the distance between the collar and the hand-held remote) is dependent on the model selected. Different brands of electronic collars have different settings and options. Many models give you a choice of a tone to be used as a warning before delivering a correction. Others have incorporated a positive tone to let the dog know she has made a correct choice. Some collars can be used in water and some collars have a range of a ½ mile or more. Some dog owners have used electronic collars with great success. However, for the best results, a dog trainer needs to develop timing skills and gain training experience prior to using this device in a professional capacity.

### Selection

When choosing a remote trainer, consider the distance you will be working with the dog and the type of stimulation that you feel would be most effective with that particular dog. Once this is decided, you can look at other features that are available: waterproof hand-held transmitters and receiver collars, type of batteries (disposable or rechargeable), battery life, number of stimulation levels, ease of use and purchase price. Some models have safety features that shut down the unit if the hand-held transmitter button is held down for more than a few seconds to avoid over-stimulation.

### Fit

An electronic collar must fit snugly around the dog's neck. There should only be enough free space to place one finger between her neck and the collar. The receiver box should rest on the front of the dog's neck and the contact points should make contact with her skin at all times.

**Usage**

It is imperative to use the electronic collar in a structured training regimen whether you are using it to correct unwanted behavior, get the dog's attention, or reinforce a cue. The trainer should know the dog well enough to determine the appropriate level to use, taking into consideration the individual dog's drives, sensitivities and motivations. Additionally, old remote trainers were known to have a delay between the time you pushed a button on the hand-held remote and when the receiver collar activated. This was due to the technology available at the time. Today's remote trainers have a delay measured in milliseconds that is unnoticeable except in laboratory testing. In the late 1990's, the more progressive manufacturers of remote trainers removed the delay. If you are using an older remote trainer, you will need to be aware of the delay. When selecting a remote trainer for use, ensure that there is no significant delay.

Many trainers also believe that dogs should be desensitized to the collar so that the dog does not equate the collar to a correction.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • The electronic collar can produce immediate results when used properly.<br>• The electronic collar is considered by some trainers to be an effective tool for obtaining and/or maintaining off-leash control.<br>• The electronic collar is an effective communication tool when training dogs at a distance.<br>• The collar can rapidly break down intense drives in dogs (i.e., professional cat killer).<br>• Tone options are available in many devices and can be used as a warning or alert. | • Timing must be precise. Timing is a learned skill because distance and conditions will vary. In addition, the inherent delay on older collars must be taken into consideration.<br>• Relying on an electronic collar for corrections may cause obedience to become dependent upon the presence of the collar.<br>• Some dogs can become desensitized to the stimulation (i.e., sound, vibration, spray, or static electronic), rendering the product useless.<br>• Increased or redirected aggression may occur if the collar is used on an aggressive dog or a dog who is exhibiting aggressive tendencies.<br>• Using an improper stimulation level can easily inflict pain on a dog and cause physical and/or mental breakdown. |

**Electronic Bark Collar and Control Devices**

Barking is a very important part of a dog's life. However, excessive or nuisance barking can cause a real strain on the human/pet relationship, countless neighborhood squabbles, and can even be the reason why some dogs lose their opportunity for a permanent home. Dogs vary in size and temperament, and all barks are not created equal. When addressing a barking challenge, it is crucial to understand why a dog is barking, because barking is sometimes just a symptom of an underlying problem. It is also important to understand that barking is a self-rewarding behavior and because of this, it can be an extremely difficult behavior to treat.

Because dogs bark for a variety of reasons, it is logical that no one technique or tool can be used to address all types of barking. For example, electronic bark control collars can be very effective in addressing nuisance barking, but may not be the ideal tool for addressing barking related to any type of aggression or separation anxiety. This is why a professional dog trainer is so important to the behavioral modification process. A knowledgeable professional can most effectively identify root causes of problem behavior, which is critical in the creation of a complete treatment plan.

## Selection



Electronic bark control takes many forms and presents a wide selection of options to fit the needs of both dog and owner. In order to sense the dog's bark, either a microphone is used to "hear" the bark, a vibration sensor is used to "feel" the bark, or a combination of the two. Once the bark is sensed, a correction designed to interrupt the behavior is delivered. This correction can be in the form of a startling sound that all can hear, an ultrasonic sound blast that only dogs or cats can hear, a static electronic correction, or a spray (air, lemon, or citronella). The bark control unit can be a collar worn by the dog or a device that is mounted or placed in an area where the dog primarily barks.



## Usage

Depending on the type of bark control selected, most collars will help deter nuisance barking. The dog can be trained to recognize that with the collar on, barking is not permitted, but with the collar off, barking is permitted. This may be an option for some owners who want the option of not entirely eliminating barking from their dog's behavior.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • These products can be very effective in treating nuisance barking when other forms of control do not work.<br>• Because there are so many choices, there is one to fit most needs.<br>• The more sophisticated devices (that detect both sound and vibration) virtually eliminate false corrections.<br>• When all other options have been exhausted, they may help prevent a dog from being re-homed or abandoned.<br>• Most collars offer automatic correction features that increase correction levels if the dog continues to bark, thereby allowing the dog to pick at which level she will stop barking. | • If these products are used with dogs suffering from separation anxiety, they can cause the dog additional stress and offer little or no help with the barking.<br>• If these products are used on dogs that are barking due to aggression (i.e., territorial, dominance, fear-based), they can cause increased aggression levels and/or redirected aggression.<br>• Some dogs can become desensitized to the correction (i.e., vibration, citronella, water), rendering the product useless.<br>• If the cessation of barking is not reinforced with treats and praise, the barking behavior is likely to return if the device is removed.<br>• False corrections can occur more often in devices that only sense sound, and less often in vibration sensors.<br>• Devices that utilize sonic and ultrasonic sounds as a correction are limited to dogs that can hear the sound. This means they may not work or work as effectively with dogs who are hearing-challenged due to age, disease, or breed-specific limitations. |

**Important Note:** A bark control device should never be considered a complete treatment plan for nuisance barking. While a bark control device can be part of an effective treatment plan, a complete plan should include positive reinforcement of alternate behaviors, increased physical exercise, increased mental stimulation, etc. Without implementing a complete treatment plan, many dogs will replace the nuisance barking behavior with another nuisance behavior, such as digging or fence jumping.

**Citronella Collar**

A citronella collar is a device used to curtail or stop dog's barking by releasing a burst of citronella spray whenever the dog barks.



**Fit**

Place the collar on the dog's neck with the microphone facing her throat and the spray valve directed toward her muzzle.

**Usage**

First, you must desensitize the dog to the citronella collar to avoid her making the connection between the collar and the spray. If you don't, the dog might still bark when the citronella collar is not on. Remove all other collars and adjust the collar until it is snug, but not overly tight.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • You do not have to be present for the collar to work.<br>• Results are typically immediate or within a few applications.<br>• It is considered by many trainers to be safe and humane. | • It doesn't work on some dogs, and you won't know if it does until you have already purchased the product.<br>• The scent of the citronella lingers even after the dog stops barking.<br>• If proper desensitization is not done, the dog will resume barking when the collar is removed. |

### Standard Body Harness



Body harnesses are sometimes used in lieu of buckle collars. Training with this type of device typically motivates both trainer and handler to focus on encouraging the dog to comply with a cue instead of forcing compliance. The front strap of the harness sits just in front of the shoulders and goes all the way around the dog's chest. The second strap goes around the body, behind the front legs. These two straps are connected by two short straps, top and bottom, that hold the harness in place. The top strap has a metal ring for leash attachment.

**Fit**

There are a couple of things to consider when sizing a harness. The first is the length of the top and bottom straight straps. These should be long enough so that the harness sits properly on the dog and does not pinch behind the legs. Harnesses typically come in four sizes: Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large. The circular straps are usually adjustable and the width should be selected based on the size of the dog. The circular straps should have two fingers worth of space under both straps.

**Usage**

The harness can be used on most dogs, but is especially good for dogs with neck injuries. A possible neck injury could be a collapsed trachea. When fitted properly, there is no pressure on the neck and only mild corrections can be given through the harness. A harness correction

requires a fair amount of physical strength to apply and is not very effective at suppressing behavior.



| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • The body harness is very gentle and can be used even on the youngest of puppies.<br>• The body harness encourages the trainer and owner to develop a positive relationship with the dog since compliance through correction is not easily attained with a harness.<br>• It is very difficult for a dog to slip out of a harness while on leash. | • The body harness allows very little leash control over a dog. |

## Leads

Leads are available in many different lengths, widths, types, and styles. Lead selection should be based on the individual dog's size and the intended use.

### Six-Foot Leash



This is probably one of the most common leashes used in training. A six-foot leash typically consists of a six-foot length of material that has a loop handle on one end and a metal clasp or snap on the other. The material the leash is made of can vary greatly; some of these materials include leather, nylon, and chain. The clasp or snap is made for attachment to a collar and can also vary in style and material. Coastal Pet Products offers an outstanding nylon leash (pictured here). Coastal leashes can typically be found at most major pet retailers. You can also look for distributors by checking out the Coastal website at www.coastalpet.com.

#### Fit

The width of the leash and the size of the snap should be relative to the size of the dog. The snap will be the most important aspect of sizing, as the width will be correct if the snap is. Leashes are not marked by snap size; you will have to choose the width that has the proper size snap. For example, a 50-pound dog will need a single ply 1-inch-wide leash, a 5-pound dog will need a single ply ½-inch-wide leash and a 100-pound dog will need a double ply 1-inch-wide leash, etc. The width selected ensures the snap is the right size, based on the dog's weight (i.e., it won't be too heavy for the dog or break because it is too light).

#### Usage

The six-foot leash can be used in most situations and allows the trainer to control the dog fairly easily. The leash should be attached directly to the collar and should not be allowed to get tangled or wrapped around the dog's neck. When secured to the collar, the snap should not have any obstructions such as ID tags. Obstructions can get tangled and open the snap, thereby releasing the dog.

> *When training using operant conditioning training techniques, a leash is typically not required if your training area is secured (i.e., living room, fenced yard) and the dog does not wander off during training. A leash will be required if your training area is unsecured (i.e., group class, park), the dog wanders off during training, or if a collar correction is*

*deemed necessary during the training process.*

**How to Hold a Six-Foot Leash**

Ideally, the leash should be kept loose at all times so there is no tension on the collar. Hold the leash by placing your right thumb through the loop of the leash. Now with your left hand, grab the leash approximately two feet from the loop. Gather up the extra slack in the leash by folding it back and forth, accordion style. Stop when you have gathered enough of the leash to create a slight droop in the leash when your arms are relaxed at your sides.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • A leash is a great tool for keeping a dog safe.<br>• A leash can be a great management tool. | • Relying on a leash for cues and corrections may cause obedience to become dependent on the presence of a leash. This can cause a dog to only be obedient if the leash is on. |

## Retractable Leash

A retractable leash is an expandable leash with retracting capabilities. It has a hard plastic case that the leash is pulled out of or retracted into as the dog applies or releases pressure on the leash. It also has a brake that is easily set, locked and released with just the flick of a finger.



Retractable leashes come in different widths and snap sizes and are usually made of nylon.

> **Example:** Flexi USA manufactures one of the best known retractable leashes. It comes in a number of different sizes and models, including "Classic" and "Classic Long", which are 16 and 26 feet in length respectively. The "Flexi Comfort" has a padded handle, making holding the leash that much easier. This may seem silly, until you have a 90-pound dog strongly pulling at the end of a 26-foot cord. The extra padding can make a difference. Comfort retractables come in 16 and 26-foot lengths as well.

### Fit

Fitting a retractable leash is very similar to fitting a six-foot leash; the width and snap size should be relative to the dog's size. The handle should also be comfortable for the person using it. The leash should be attached directly to the collar and not allowed to get tangled or wrap around the dog's neck. When secured to the collar, the snap should not have any obstructions such as ID tags. Obstructions can get tangled and open the snap, thereby releasing the dog.

### Usage

The retractable leash is best used as an exercise leash or in situations where tangling is a concern. This is an excellent leash for a dog who is already trained or for proofing behaviors. However, if the dog is in need of basic obedience work, this leash may not provide sufficient control.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • The retractable leash allows the dog a good amount of freedom without having to untangle continuously.<br>• It can be adjusted to various lengths, giving the owner one leash that can be six feet long, ten feet long, etc.<br>• Adjusting the length of the leash is fairly simple.<br>• The handle on the retractable leash is easier for some people to hold. This is especially true people with weakened hand strength or those with arthritis.<br>• Blind or elderly dogs can find the continuous tension of a Flexi quite comforting. | • The retractable leash can easily teach a dog to pull, as it is designed to grow as the dog pulls on it.<br>• The handle on the retractable leash can also be bulky and difficult to work with while training. |

### Long Line

A long line is a 10-to-50-foot length of material with a loop handle on one end and a snap or clip that attaches to a collar on the other. The material is normally nylon, but they can also be made of rope or even chain in rare cases.



**Fit**

The length of a long line and the snap size should be appropriate for the individual dog you are working with. It is also important to ensure that it will be long or short enough for the training tasks you are using it for.

> **Example:** A long line for training a recall with a 75-pound dog may need to be 50 feet long. A long line for training a recall with a 15-pound dog may only need to be 20 feet long. This is because a bigger dog perceives the same distance differently than a

smaller dog does. A bigger dog can cover the same amount of distance in a much shorter amount of time than a smaller dog can, which will influence the level of freedom the dog feels she has. A 75-pound dog that is only 20 feet away from her handler will perceive him as being closer than a 15-pound dog would, because she can get to her handler much quicker. To effectively practice long line work, the dog should perceive her handler as being out of reach, thus giving the dog the illusion of making the decision on her own.

**Usage**

When using a long line, you should always supervise the dog for safety. The dog should be desensitized to the long line before it is used in any actual training. Most trainers use the long line for finish training and to introduce distance and distraction for an already trained and understood cue. Before you attempt to pick up a long line attached to a running dog, step on it first. The momentum from a dog running 20 or 30 feet away can be surprisingly strong. Many trainers and handlers recommend wearing gloves when using a long line, especially with dogs over 30 pounds. People have been known to get friction burns on unprotected hands if the long line passes through their hands very quickly.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • The long line allows a trainer to confidently and safely work a dog from a distance. | • People can easily become tangled and injured in the line if they are not careful. Always be aware of where the long line is in relation to your legs.<br>• Long line work can take practice. Many handlers find it difficult to back up while controlling the long line as the dog quickly moves toward them. |

# Crates

## Airline Crate



Airline crates are a solid plastic construction crate with wire vents on the sides and a wire door on the front.

**Fit**

The dog should have room to stand up and turn around comfortably in the crate with the door shut. To accomplish this, the size of the crate should be approximately 1 ½ times the dog's length, not including the tail. These crates come in many different sizes, so finding a good fit is fairly easy.

**Usage**

The crate is a great management and housebreaking tool. You should put safe toys that the dog finds interesting in the crate, and it should not be viewed or used as a form of punishment.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Crate training can help solve a number of behavior problems, including: separation anxiety, housetraining, chewing, and unruly behavior in the home.<br>• Dogs are den animals and the crate simulates the close, dark effect of the den. This is often soothing to a dog and allows them to instinctively feel safe while in the crate.<br>• The confining nature of the crate helps the owner maintain control of the dog and prevents the dog from making mistakes that can cause training setbacks.<br>• The crate dismantles for easy cleaning and storage. | • Some people leave their dogs in their crates for too long.<br>• Large dog crates require more space, can be heavy to lift or move, and rarely match any house décor.<br>• Some people may be resistant to the idea of confining their dog in a crate. |

### Wire Crate

The wire crate has wire construction on three sides and the top, with a wire door on the front. The bottom has a metal tray that can be removed for cleaning.



**Fit**

The dog should have room to stand up and turn around comfortably in the crate with the door shut. To accomplish this, the size of the crate should be approximately 1 ½ times the dog's length, not including the tail. These crates come in many different sizes, so finding a good fit is fairly easy.

**Usage**

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| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Crate training can help solve a number of behavior problems, including: separation anxiety, housetraining, chewing, and unruly behavior in the home.<br>• The confining nature of the crate helps the owner maintain control of the dog and prevents the dog from making mistakes that can cause training setbacks.<br>• The wire crate has a slide-out tray for easy cleaning.<br>• Some dogs prefer the openness of the wire crate over the airline-type crates. | • Some dogs do not like the openness of the wire crate because it does not simulate the den feeling of close darkness that soothes dogs.<br>• Some people tend to leave their dogs in the crate for too long.<br>• Large dog crates require more space, can be heavy to lift or move, and rarely match any house décor.<br>• Some people may be resistant to the idea of confining their dog in a crate. |

**Puppy Playpen**

A puppy playpen is a metal or plastic moveable fence made of a number of sections with flexible joints. These joints allow the fence to be configured into a variety of different shapes. The height of the fence can vary from 32 inches to 48 inches.



**Usage**

The puppy playpen is also an effective management and housebreaking tool. Like a crate, the playpen should have safe toys that the dog finds interesting and should never be used as a form of punishment.

Remember to read all directions and warnings included with the product before using.

The puppy playpen can be used to confine a puppy to a certain area and to protect her from potentially hazardous situations when 100% supervision may be difficult to maintain. Simply set up the playpen in the room you are occupying and place the puppy and a few of her favorite chew toys in the playpen. You will still need to supervise her and encourage her to play with the toys. Remember to take her out to potty at regular intervals. The playpen should be made small enough to discourage the puppy from improper elimination, but big enough for her to roll around, play, and stretch out to chew her toys.

| **Pros**  | **Cons**  |
|---|---|
| • The playpen is a wonderful way to keep track of a puppy while making dinner or watching TV. It is actually a great tool for almost any situation where your ability to supervise the puppy falls below 100%.<br>• The playpen will keep the puppy safe and prevent her from having opportunities to engage in unacceptable behavior. | • The playpen can be overused. Some playpen users may use the playpen as a substitute for training, supervision, and the attention puppies need.<br>• Although most people are not as resistant to the idea of confining their dog in a playpen as they are to confining them in a crate, there is still some resistance on the part of dog owners. |

## Safety Equipment

### Canine Vehicle Restraint



At some point, every one of your clients will likely need to transport their dogs via automobile or truck. Transporting pets safely is something many dog owners don't consider until it's too late. A 60-pound dog is roughly the same weight as a seven-year-old child. Hopefully, no parent would consider letting their seven-year-old (or any passenger) ride in their car without wearing a seatbelt. Yet, often these same people will allow their dogs to do just that. Surprisingly, until very recently, products designed to protect dogs the same way seatbelts protect humans didn't exist. Luckily that has changed.

> **Example:** One excellent canine restraint system is the Ruff Rider "Roadie", manufactured by Ruff Rider Products, LLC. In 1999, Ruff Rider's Roadie was awarded Top Choice and Product of the Year by "Your Dog" Magazine of Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.

What makes this product stand out is the fact that it was subjected to the same type of scientific testing that human restraint harnesses (seatbelts) are required to pass. The Roadie design was tested for strength at Commercial Testing Labs in Denver in 1996. The Roadie's tensile strength exceeds the Society of American Engineers' tensile strength standards for human seatbelts of 5,000 pounds. This rigorous testing was confirmed by Tufts University, who put a number of restraint systems through their own stress tests and found the Roadie to be the best by far.

The Roadie has five models to choose from. The new models include the Roadie LX with sheep skin padding, the Roadie Assist harness for service dogs and the Roadie Hiker harness for outdoor use. Roadie harnesses fit dogs weighing from 7 to 160 pounds.

As an ABC Certified Dog Trainer, it is critical that you make appropriate safety recommendations to your students. Safe transportation is a subject that too many dog owners

don't even consider. Trainers can educate owners and save lives!

**Fit**

Proper fit is essential. We do not recommend that you buy a size too large for your puppy so that she can "grow into it." Trainers should recommend that their students purchase a proper fitting Roadie for their puppies, and if they need to purchase a larger one as their dog grows, to please do so. Remind them it will be significantly less expensive than the tragedy that could occur if the harness doesn't fit and they get into an accident. If the harness is too big it could fall off, which is why proper sizing is so critical. If the harness is too small, the dog's fur and skin will overlap the webbing.

To determine if the harness is too big: put the harness on the dog, buckle both buckles, tighten the chest and belly straps, and pull the red lead through the yellow loop. Then, being careful not to injure the dog, try taking the harness off by pulling it over the dog's head. If you can pull the harness off, it is probably too big.

Some active dogs do manage to get tangled in the shoulder/lap seatbelt. There is an inexpensive device called a locking clip that holds the shoulder and lap belt together, and you can position it so that the seatbelt is almost completely out of your dog's way.

**Usage**

The Roadie is specially designed to be a Canine Vehicle Safety System. It is not a converted harness. In creating the design, consideration was given to the forces that occur in all directions while traveling in the car in both normal and emergency situations. At this juncture, the Roadie is the best product we've seen. As others come to market, we will include them.

ABC Certified Dog Trainers should know the difference between a Canine Vehicle Safety System and a harness, which is simply designed to keep your dog from moving about your vehicle. There are numerous harnesses available to address the latter. Preventing your dog from moving freely around your car when you're driving is an important safety concern. Many automobile accidents are caused when drivers are distracted by their dogs climbing into their laps or under their feet. The key difference between a Canine Vehicle Safety System and a harness is how well the devices protect the dog in the event of an accident. As of this date, standard body harnesses are not designed to withstand the force of an automobile accident,

whereas Canine Vehicle Safety Systems are.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • The device is designed to withstand the forces generated in an automobile accident. This protects both the dog and human occupants. | • The Ruff Rider Roadie can be somewhat complicated to assemble. It takes a little getting used to before you can quickly secure your dog every time you take her on a drive. |

## Pet Insurance

As a professional in the animal industry, it is important that you are educated in all aspects that could potentially impact your clients' pets. One such area is pet health. We are all aware of the expenses that come along with maintaining the health of our four-legged family members. From simple costs for office visits to more costly trips to the veterinarian involving more advanced procedures, in times like these, the old adage, "better to be safe than sorry" has never been more relevant. So how does one prepare to reduce medical costs? Obviously preventative care including exercise, sound nutrition and even good training can help. However it is safe to say that at some point no matter what precautions your clients take, veterinary costs will be something all pet parents have to deal with. One such step to help manage the costs of veterinary bills is to purchase pet insurance.

According to a survey conducted by the American Veterinary Medical Association, 88% of pet owners say that they consider their pet as a member of the family[*]. Pets can be prone to injury from running, jumping and playing. Additionally, without an opposable thumb, our pets don't have the ability to carry around items using their paws. Due to this, they must then have their mouth act as their "hands". In order for a dog or cat to carry around his/her favorite toy, they must carry it in their mouth, which increases their likelihood of swallowing objects that could potentially require surgery to remove. In fact, an estimated 92% of all pets will experience some type of severe emergency situation over the course of their lifetime[†].

With statistics like that it is a wonder why less than 3% of pet owners have insured their pets. There are 3 main reasons why more have not.

1. Pet owners are unaware that insurance policies exist specifically designed for pets

2. Pet Insurance is thought to be expensive
   It is estimated that Americans spend approximately $45.5 billion on their pets. 27% of that is expected to be spent in veterinary care. That equates to $12.3 Billion on medical each year! The range of veterinary bills can range greatly depending on what the visit entailed. For

[*] http://www.petinsurancereviews.org/pet-statistics.html
[†] http://www.petplace.com/pet-insurance.aspx

example, an annual check up to ensure Fido is still healthy and to get a teeth cleaning is far less expensive than a more serious visit should he have to go in for surgery. If an owner is faced with the latter, she will be grateful for having insured Fido. Rather than having to incur the costly vet bills on her own, the owner will be able to off-set some of those expenses by receiving a reimbursement from the pet insurance company on a portion, of the bill.

In addition, the monthly cost for insuring one's pet is relatively low. With some pet insurance companies, if you insure more than one pet, you could receive a multiple pet discount of up to 15% for 4+ pets insured.

3. Medical costs will rise.
   New medical advancements are just becoming available in the veterinary world. Means of treatment that were once only performed on humans are now making their way into the pet industry. These include treatments such as radiation therapy and blood transfusions. With these new practices, pet owners have the possibility of increasing the number of years to their pet's life. However, the techniques and tools used to complete them are costly. With those higher costs, veterinary bills are expected to rise.

Unfortunately, we cannot predict when accidents or illnesses will occur. A pet owner doesn't want to be put in a predicament when disaster strikes and they have no coverage, leaving them with the large, costly vet bills to pay on their own. One of the best means for being financially prepared is opening an insurance policy for one's pet.

There are several pet insurance companies in the market. However, one such company stands above the rest – Veterinary Pet Insurance.

### Veterinary Pet Insurance

The leader in the pet insurance industry is Veterinary Pet Insurance (VPI), with 4 out of 5 veterinarians recommending them. VPI was founded in 1982 by over seven hundred fifty veterinarians. VPI offers a number of different plans and deductibles that give pet owners a variety of coverage options designed to fit their needs and budgets. For example, the VPI Major Medical plan is ideal for pet owners seeking the highest level of pet health coverage.

Through VPI, some of the eligible expenses are:

- Veterinary office visits
- Surgeries
- Diagnostic Testing
- Prescriptions
- Hospitalization

**Canine Insurance Plans**

There are several different options to choose from when it comes to covering your pet. Below are the insurance plans available to you and your clients' dogs. Each plan varies in the amount of coverage, deductible options and monthly payments. To better select which option would apply best to each individual dog, contact VPI directly and speak to one of their representatives who would gladly assist you in your choice. You can call them at (800) 944-9185 or go online to petinsurance.com/animal career school

**VPI Major Medical Plan for Dogs** ("Comprehensive Coverage") – This plan offers the most comprehensive benefits coverage and four annual deductible options from $100 to $1,000It covers a range of accidents, illnesses and hereditary problems. The maximum benefit allowance per policy term for this plan equates to $14,000.00.

**VPI Medical Plan for Dogs** ("Economical Coverage") – Similar to VPI's Major Medical plan in terms of coverage for accidents and illnesses, this plan does not provide coverage for hereditary problems.

**VPI Injury Plan for Dogs**– This plan has no pet age limit and covers veterinary visits which involve accidental injuries such as foreign body ingestion, lacerations, poisonings and more.; There is an annual deductible of $250 with this plan.

**Feline Insurance Plans**

While it is understood that as a professional trainer your clientele will likely consist mainly of canines, you may also work with felines. Even if you don't, it is important to realize that dog owners may also have cats at home that require just as much veterinary attention. In fact there are an estimated 90 million cats in the United States alone! They should be made aware of the different insurance plans available to them for felines. Each plan varies in the amount of coverage, cost for deductible and monthly payments. To better select which option would apply best to each individual dog, contact VPI directly and speak to one of their representatives who would gladly assist you in your choice. You can call them at (800) 944-9185.

**VPI Major Medical Plan for Cats** ("Comprehensive Coverage") – This is the largest coverage available from VPI. It covers a range of veterinary hospital visits from accidents to illnesses to hereditary problems. The maximum policy term for this plan equates to $14,000.00.

**VPI Medical Plan for Cats** ("Economical Coverage") – Similar to VPI's Major Medical, this plan has a maximum policy term of up to $7,000.00. The plan includes coverage for accidents and illnesses.

**VPI Injury Plan for Cats** ("Senior Pet Protection") – This plan is best suited for senior pets and only covers veterinary visits which involve accidents; however, the maximum policy terms covers up to $14,000.00.

**VPI Feline Select℠ Plan** – The plan developed specifically for cats. With a policy term benefit of $9,000.00, the Feline Select℠ Plan covers the 15 most common reasons cats need veterinary care:

- Tooth infections requiring extractions
- Upset stomach/vomiting/diarrhea
- Lacerations/bite wounds
- Skin allergies and infections
- Benign skin growths
- Eye infections
- Ear infections
- Sprains
- Constipation
- Diabetes mellitus
- Bladder infections/FLUTD
- Chronic kidney failure
- Hyperthyroidism
- Asthma/allergic bronchitis
- Upper respiratory infection

**Care Guard®** ("Routine Care Coverage")

This coverage is an add-on feature when paired with any of the above canine and feline base medical plans. Care Guard® provides reimbursement for several routine care services, such as microchipping, deworming, urinalysis, and vaccinations. Another great benefit of Care Guard® is there is no deductible! There are two levels in which to choose from.

**Premier** – offers higher benefits for many procedures and includes benefits for dental cleaning or spay/neuter procedures

**Core** – helps pay for wellness exams, vaccinations and flea and/or heartworm preventive medications.

**Avian and Exotic Insurance Plan ("Plan A")**

Not only do we want to keep our furry companions protected, as animal lovers, our feathered and scaled pets are just as important. This is why Veterinary Pet Insurance also has a plan designed to cover birds, reptiles and rodents. Should you or one of your clients also own one of these critters, contact VPI for coverage options at (800) 944-9185.

**How it Works**

With Veterinary Pet Insurance, in the unfortunate event of an accident occurring, causing harm to your pet, you don't need to worry about contacting the insurance company right away. Your main focus can be where it should be – getting your pet the veterinary attention he needs. You do not need to be concerned with bringing specific paperwork with you to the vet or making a phone call prior to your pet receiving treatment. The assistance with compensation doesn't begin until after your dog or cat is cared for.

In order to obtain compensation toward the veterinary bills, all you need to do is follow a few steps.

1. Pay the veterinary invoice at the time of service
2. Make sure to get a receipt for all medical attention your dog or cat received
3. Fill out the simple, one-page VPI claim form
4. Send the completed form with copies of the receipts directly to VPI
5. Veterinary Pet Insurance will review the bills and, based upon your plan, will reimburse you for the eligible expenses.



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**Why we offer this information.** It is important to understand that we neither want nor expect ABC Certified Professional Trainers to sell pet insurance. That is something you need to be licensed to do and quite frankly that is best left to the licensed pet insurance agents. However, given the escalating costs of medical treatment and the tough times we all face, it makes sense to be able to offer your clients information that allows them to inquire further if they feel that a service like veterinary pet insurance fits their needs. That is a major motivation for us teaching you about this important service.

**How to Get More Information**

With Animal Behavior College's affiliation with VPI, you can receive a minimum of 5% discount off your annual premium costs and a maximum of 15% off if 4 or more pets are insured through ABC's special toll free number and web URL.

Signing up is easy! To begin the process, review the above options available and determine which insurance plan is best for you pet(s). If you need additional assistance in deciding what plan is better suited for your animals, feel free to contact VPI directly at (800) 944-9185. One of their licensed representatives will gladly discuss the options available, help you make the right choice and enroll your pet. If you wish to get a quote and/or enroll online you may go to www.petinsurance.com/animalcareerschool. The rest of the process is simple! All you have to do is follow the instructions provided.

**Extending This Opportunity**

Not only is the VPI discount there for you,,it's also available for your animal loving customers as well. Don't keep this to yourself!

As you progress through your training career, you may wish to inform your group class and private lesson clients. As an animal lover yourself, you are concerned about the overall well-being of the dogs you train. While you may not be able to supply them with medical assistance, you can help them by informing their owners on ways to save on veterinary bills. For your convenience, Animal Behavior College has created a flyer designed specifically for informing pet owners that you work with. You can acquire this flyer at www.animalbehaviorcollege.com/specialoffers. Feel free to print out this flyer and provide it in any training materials you give to your clients.

## Housetraining Aids

### Litter Box



The litter box is a watertight box filled halfway with an absorbent material. This material is usually either shredded recycled paper or shredded wood, both of which are pressed into pellets. Many people use housebreaking pads like Coastal Pet Products Advance Training Pads by lining the bottom of the litter box. Some people's schedules necessitate their dogs not having access to the outdoors for up to ten or twelve hours at a time. In situations like these, many owners elect to teach their dogs to go to the bathroom in a specific spot in the house. Prior to litter boxes, many people used newspaper to mark the specific spot. This may be where the term "paper training" originated. The litter box is simply a variation on the paper training theme. The advantage to a litter box is that unlike paper, no odor will seep through the box onto the floor.

**Usage**

Read all directions and warnings included with the product before using.

Housetraining is usually necessary with all dogs. Unfortunately, dogs are not like cats when it comes to housetraining. Just because you provide a dog with potty facilities in the house does not mean she will automatically use them. Normal housetraining techniques will need to be used with the owner substituting the litter box for the outside area.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • For someone who lives in an apartment, condo, or town home or who doesn't have a yard, a litter box may be much more convenient and/or realistic than taking the dog for a walk three or four times per day.<br>• Dogs who are reluctant to go outside in foul weather may have fewer accidents if an appropriate potty area is provided inside the house.<br>• This product is convenient for people whose dogs won't have access to an outdoor toilet area for extended periods of time.<br>• It's a valid choice for people with small dogs who don't want their dogs to eliminate outside for a variety of reasons. | • When a dog uses the litter box, it may produce an unpleasant odor in the house. The litter box should be cleaned every time the dog uses it so it stays pleasant for the dog and encourages her to return the next time.<br>• Having a litter box in the house may desensitize the owner to the dog eliminating in the house. This could result in the owner being unconcerned about lapses in housetraining.<br>• People with medium and larger sized dogs typically will not consider this a viable option.<br>• The absorbent material is often messy, and some dogs track it all over the house. |

### Housebreaking Pads



Disposable housebreaking pads are typically 2 ½-foot square, absorbent paper pads backed with plastic. The pads are usually scented to encourage dogs to use them for elimination. Housebreaking pads represent an alternative option to litter boxes and are often more feasible to use with large dogs. Coastal Pet Products makes an excellent housebreaking pad called the Advance Training Pad. This product is available at most major pet retailers. Advance Training Pads feature super absorbent polymer--no worries about leaks! They come with what Coastal called advanced "Wet Check technology"; the pad turns blue when wet.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • For someone who lives in an apartment or condo or who doesn't have a yard, this may be much more convenient than taking the dog for a walk three or four times per day.<br>• Dogs who are reluctant to go outside in foul weather may have fewer accidents if an appropriate potty area is provided inside the house.<br>• This product is convenient for people whose dogs won't have access to an outdoor toilet area for more than ten hours at a time.<br>• It's a valid choice for dog owners with all sizes of dogs who don't want their dogs to eliminate outside for a variety of reasons.<br>• Unlike litter boxes, there is no messy tracking of litter materials when using the pads. | • When a dog uses the housebreaking pad, it may produce an unpleasant odor in the house. The housebreaking pad should be changed every time the dog uses it so it stays pleasant for the dog and encourages her to return the next time.<br>• Having a housebreaking pad in the house may desensitize the owner to the dog eliminating in the house. This could result in the owner being unconcerned about lapses in housetraining.<br>• Dogs eliminate in certain areas based on visual cues (they can see they've gone there before) and scent cues (they can smell that they've gone there before). The dog may continue to eliminate in the spot where the pad used to be after you've removed it.<br>• Although the plastic backing on most housebreaking pads will prevent moisture and scent from seeping through to the flooring underneath the pad, some dogs "miss" the pad. It is also possible that urine will spill off the pad onto the floor. |

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| | • Some dog owners wish to use the pads as a temporary measure prior to the dog being fully housetrained. This presents a challenge as most dogs become conditioned to eliminate on the pad even when the owner wishes to remove it. Some dogs will simply eliminate in the area the pad was previously located in. |

## Chewing Deterrents

### Bitter Spray

This is a bitter-tasting spray used to deter a puppy or dog from chewing inappropriate items. It typically comes in a non-aerosol bottle.






**Usage**

Read all directions, usages, and warnings included with the product before using.

Bitter spray should be applied daily to objects you wish the dog to avoid. This product alone typically will not stop the dog from chewing; it should be coupled with proper training to redirect the undesirable behavior. This product is also available in a paste form. Many trainers find that the paste lasts longer on whatever objects it is applied to when compared to the spray. The downside with paste is it is more difficult to apply, especially on larger objects (i.e., a couch cushion).

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Bitter products are non-toxic and usually non-staining. | • Since some bitter sprays are alcohol-based, they tend to evaporate fairly quickly. This means bitter spray must be reapplied on a regular schedule as it is most effective when freshly applied.<br>• Not all dogs are repelled by bitter spray. |

## Containment Systems

### Kennel or Dog Run



A typical kennel or dog run is enclosed completely on four sides. One of the four sides has a gate for easy access. Some have roofs and some do not. The sides of the kennel are most commonly made of chain link fencing. The buyer can add a floor consisting of concrete, gravel, wood chips, or sand.

**Usage**

A kennel should be a minimum of four times larger than a properly-sized crate and can be used to confine a dog in the yard without supervision. Since a kennel provides more space than a crate, it can be used for longer periods of time. However, make sure to read all directions and warnings included with the product before using it. Any dog put in a kennel should be properly exercised and have safe toys to occupy herself while you are away. The kennel should not be used as the dog's primary living area.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Kenneling a dog while her owner is away can eliminate destruction to the house and yard.<br>• If adequately floored and roofed, it can prevent the dog from escaping.<br>• When used with a proper behavior modification program, kennels can be effective tools for managing a dog's access to the house and yard. | • Overuse is one of the biggest problems with the kennel. An owner may find it tempting to allow the dog to live continuously in the kennel instead of training her and giving her proper attention.<br>• Depending on the material used for the floor, a kennel can counteract housebreaking and even encourage the dog to eliminate in inappropriate areas such as in the house or on cement walkways.<br>• If the owner chooses not to floor the kennel, it could become muddy. Most people do not appreciate a dirty dog and may not allow her in the house because of it.<br>• Special care must be taken when determining the placement of a kennel. It must be adequately shaded to protect the dog from excessive heat and rain. It also must be constructed in a fashion that protects the dog from injuring herself on any sharp edges. |

## Electronic Pet Containment

Electronic pet containment systems provide a means to keeping your pet in your yard without using a fence or wall. Containment systems can be installed by a professional or can be purchased as do-it-yourself kits. The wire can be placed around the perimeter of the entire yard, either above ground or below. It can also be strategically placed in certain sections of the yard, such as around swimming pools or gardens, to keep pets out of a specific area.



**Fit**

Most containment systems consist of a transmitter that mounts in a weatherproof location, a wire that is placed around the area to be contained, and a receiver collar worn by the pet. The receiver collar has two contact points that must touch the skin of the neck to deliver the static correction. Pets that weigh eight pounds or more can wear most receiver collars. The fit of the receiver collar on the pet is crucial to ensure the contact points are touching skin and that the collar isn't too tight. Different systems have various features to select from. Standard features of in-ground containment systems include:

- Low-battery indicator on the receiver collar
- Variable correction levels
- Disposable or rechargeable batteries
- Tone-only or vibration-only options
- Power indicator and loop integrity indicator on the wall-mounted transmitter

**Usage**

If the dog gets too close to the boundary, she will receive a warning tone followed by a stimulation (i.e., electronic, spray, vibration), to remind her to stay within her boundaries. She should receive training from a professional trainer experienced with electronic containment systems. After proper training, she will learn to stay within the boundaries.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • These systems can be used in neighborhoods where traditional fencing is not allowed.<br>• Systems that do not use wire are also available. Instead, a transmitter sends out a circular signal that activates the receiver collar when it gets too close to the boundary.<br>• They can be used to limit access to specific areas of the yard.<br>• They can be used in conjunction with an existing fence or wall to stop the dog from climbing over or digging under them (the wire can be attached directly to the fence or wall).<br>• The system can be used on cats that are large enough to comfortably wear the receiver collar.<br>• Most collars have a safety time-out feature to prevent the pet from being excessively stimulated if she gets confused.<br>• The system can be customized to fit the size and shape of the yard.<br>• Newer systems feature receiver collars that have adjustable levels of static correction, so you can begin training at a very low level of stimulation, thus reducing stress to the pet. | • Without proper training of the pet, the system will not effectively contain her or may deliver excessive stimulation, which could result in confusion and emotional or physical distress.<br>• The system will not keep other animals from entering your yard.<br>• If the drive to leave the boundary is strong enough (i.e., bird or other animal on the other side), the pet may escape (this is directly related to how well the training was conducted). Some systems feature run-through protection that senses your pet bolting through the boundary and automatically increases the correction to the highest level. Without proper training, this increased stimulation will not necessarily deter the dog.<br>• Some local governments and organizations do not acknowledge electronic containment systems as an acceptable method of "fencing in" a pet.<br>• Some dog owners and dog trainers consider the use of electronic stimulation to be inhumane. |

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • These systems can be less expensive than a conventional fence and they do not require gates.<br>• They can be installed without blocking the view.<br>• The owner can deactivate the fence once the dog learns exactly where the boundary lies.<br>• In some cases, it provides a great deal of freedom to a dog previously tethered or confined to a small area. | |

## Pet Doors



A pet door is a passageway that allows your pet to enter or exit the house without assistance. It is intended to provide freedom for pets to come and go as they please, allowing pet owners to feel less constrained by the needs of their best friend. It comes in a variety of sizes, materials, colors, and types of openings (i.e., hard flap, soft flap, guillotine door).

### Fit

Pet doors can be mounted in an interior or exterior door. Some can be mounted in a wall and some are designed for use with a sliding glass door. Most pet doors can be installed without complicated tools or procedures. If needed, replacement flaps are available for most doors.

### Usage

Once the door is installed, you can train the pet to use it by securing the flap or door open and coaxing her through the opening with encouragement or treats. Once she successfully goes in and out of the opening several times, the flap can be closed. With the flap closed, the dog will need to be shown again how to go through the door using encouragement or treats to accustom her to the flap.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Pet doors provide freedom for the pet and pet owner. There will be no more getting up in the middle of the night or interrupting dinner to let your dog out!<br>• By giving your pet freedom to move in and out at will, you can address some common behavior problems such as housebreaking, destructive chewing, and excessive barking.<br>• Most doors are designed to keep weather conditions and insects out of the house. | • As with any opening in an exterior door, there is some concern about the effect the pet door has on security. A combination of the pet's security value and the location of the pet door (away from the door knob or lock) may alleviate some of the concern.<br>• The door may also provide uninvited animals with access to your home. This can be reduced by using a closing panel, which is included with most pet doors.<br>• If mounted improperly (too low or too high), the flaps can be damaged or the pet may be reluctant to pass through the door. |

## Boundary Training Aids




### Boundary Spray

This is a product designed to repel a dog with a noxious odor. The odor is usually not noxious to humans and, in the case of citronella, may smell quite pleasant.

**Usage**

Read all directions and warnings included with the product before using. A repellant should only be used in an area that allows ample room for the dog to avoid it.

**➲Step-by-Step Training**

| Step | Action |
|---|---|
| **1** | Determine which area you would like the dog to avoid. Do not expect the dog to travel through the repellent for any reason. |
| **2** | Spray the area according to the instructions included with the product. |
| **3** | As with any product, there is training involved. Put the dog on a leash and approach the repellent area. Do not allow the dog to enter the area even if she appears to want to. You should use the Leave-It cue when the dog approaches the area. |
| **4** | After a few days, when you are certain the dog will not enter the area, she may have access to the area without a leash. If she still remains out of the forbidden area, you may consider unsupervised time near the area. If she persists in crossing the boundary, remember to go back a level in her training. |

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Using a repellent may persuade you to use less supervision with your dog. If used properly, the dog will avoid even attractive areas providing more opportunities to reward the avoidance. | • As with any product, the dog can learn to tolerate the smell if not properly trained to avoid it.<br>• A repellent can also block the path to the potty area if the yard is not large enough for the dog to comfortably pass by the treated area. |

### Shriek Alarm

A shriek alarm is a pressurized can of air with a horn or whistle attached to the nozzle. When the bottom is depressed, it lets air out of the nozzle which passes through the horn and creates a very loud noise. The type of nozzle determines the noise that is produced.

**Usage**

Read all directions and warnings included with the product before using.

This product can be used to startle a dog, thus interrupting a behavior. Shriek alarms should never be used in close proximity to a dog's head or ears as this may cause discomfort or hearing loss.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • A shriek alarm gives you a hands-free way to interrupt inappropriate behavior.<br>• Motion-sensor shriek alarms can also be set up as booby traps to discourage unwanted behavior when you are away. | • If the shriek alarm is used improperly, it can cause hearing damage or elicit a fear response from some dogs. Timing is critical.<br>• This device should not be used with puppies under the age of four months.<br>• Some dogs learn to recognize the shriek alarm and will only behave appropriately when you have it in your hand. |

### Static Shock Mat



A static shock mat is a rectangular mat that typically measures roughly 3 x 1 feet. It is designed to administer a static (electric) stimulation when it is touched. The mat typically has a power cord to supply electricity.

**Usage**

Read all directions and warnings included with the product before using.

The static shock mat can be used to keep a dog out of an area. It can also be used to keep a dog off counters or furniture when you are away.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • This device doesn't require a receiver collar, which eliminates the dog associating the correction with the collar.<br>• A static mat can be used in many locations in the house and is extremely easy to set up.<br>• The mat is safe as the static stimulation delivered is very mild. | • Larger dogs may learn to step over the mat to avoid correction.<br>• Some dogs may become desensitized to the correction and completely ignore it. |

## Toys

Toys can be grouped into two main categories: chew toys and play toys.

### Chew Toys

Since chewing is a completely natural instinct in canines, owners should be educated to provide appropriate chew toys for their dogs. Supplying their dogs with appropriate chew toys will provide constant mental stimulation, expend surplus energy, satisfy the instinctive need to chew, and exercise gums and teeth. Just as humans become absorbed in an interesting conversation or engrossed in an action-packed movie, dogs can also get lost in a good "chewy." The type of chew toy selected should be based on the dog's size, activity level, and possibly breed. Always select the proper size, texture, and shape of chew toy and make sure to wash your hands after handling any meat-based chews to minimize exposure to bacteria. Most importantly, *supervise, supervise, supervise*.

### Play Toys

Individual dogs will react differently to the various types of play toys available. While one type of play toy will be inherently fun for some dogs to play with, other dogs may find that same toy uninteresting. That being said, an owner can also teach a dog that a toy is fun by simply pairing all fun interaction the dog gets with the toy. For example, if an owner were to come home from work every day and play with his dog using a cast iron skillet, the dog would soon get very excited whenever she saw the cast iron skillet. The trick here is to put the toy away once you decide that playtime is over, before the dog loses interest. This keeps the dog very interested and eager during designated play time.

The following is a list of assorted toys that all that all ABC Certified Dog Trainers should become familiar with. Some fall into the chew toy category and some fall into the play toy category. Please note: some toys may fall into both categories.

**Bones (Sterilized)**



Most sterilized bones are large cow bones that have a hollow center. They have been cooked to remove all traces of tissue and marrow. Some have a flavored food mixture in the hollow center. These bones are available in most pet stores.

**Usage**

The hollowed center of a sterilized bone can be stuffed with a variety of goodies, such as peanut butter, canned food, or any delicious treat. Dogs will stay busy for hours trying to empty the hollowed center of goodies, which will help relieve boredom. Always supervise any dog that is given a sterilized bone as a chew.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Most bones are easily cleaned after usage and are a great alternative to rawhides, which can be consumed quickly. | • These bones are not for aggressive chewers as they may attempt to chew the actual bone. This may result in broken teeth and/or the ingestion of bone splinters.<br>• If a sterilized bone is repeatedly dropped on a hard surface, it may crack and need to be discarded.<br>• A hard bone repeatedly dropped on the floor can damage brittle or delicate flooring (i.e., tile floors, wood floors).<br>• Since all flavorings have been removed during the cooking process, most dogs will lose interest in the bone if it is not stuffed with a food filling.<br>• If greasy fillings get onto items like carpeting or fabric furniture, the dog may come back to these and chew them at a later time. |

**Natural Bone (With Tissue)**



Most natural bones are usually bovine femur bones that may have been cut into knuckle-sized pieces and have been roasted, smoked, or basted with bits of meat and marrow still attached. When choosing size, the bone should not be able to fit completely into a dog's mouth. When in doubt of the proper size, you should always choose a larger size. Always supervise any dog that is given a natural bone as a chew. They can be found in most pet stores or at a supermarket and/or local butcher shop.

**Usage**

When dogs are given these bones as a chew, they will slowly chew bits of roasted meat and marrow from the ends and center of the bone. This helps relieve boredom and satisfies the dog's natural chewing instinct.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Natural bones usually have a stronger aroma than the sterilized bones from the roasting or smoking process. Bits of meat are still intact, which most dogs love.<br>• These bones are a great alternative to rawhides, which may be consumed quickly. | • These bones are not for aggressive chewers, as they may attempt to chew the dense part of the bone.<br>• Some aggressive chewers will also attempt to swallow or gulp down large pieces of the bone. This may cause digestive upsets or result in broken teeth. Some dogs will actually attempt to eat the bone, which could result in the ingestion of bone splinters.<br>• A hard bone repeatedly dropped on the floor can damage brittle or delicate flooring (i.e., tile floors, wood floors).<br>• If grease from meat left on the bones gets onto items like carpeting or fabric furniture, the dog may come back to these and chew them at a later time. |

**Rawhide (Compressed and Knotted)**





Rawhides are made of bovine (cow) or swine (pig) hides that have been dried and processed into many different shapes and sizes. Many are available in compressed varieties. As the name suggests, compressed chews are processed hides that have been tightly compressed into different shapes and may have added flavoring such as garlic, beef, or cheese for additional appeal. Some compressed rawhides have a knot tied on each end. A well-made rawhide should have some flexibility when twisted and should be made in North America to reduce the amounts of added chemicals, such as formaldehyde. Some rawhides have been washed in formaldehyde or bleached with titanium oxide (which turns them white), so use caution when selecting a chew.

Rawhides are great for relieving boredom, exercising teeth and gums, and satisfying a dog's need to chew. When selecting a rawhide, always choose one that appears too large for the dog. The dog should not be able to chew and swallow it in a short period of time, or fit the rawhide completely into her mouth. When the dog is able to hold the entire chew in her mouth, it's time to take it away. Some dogs manage to shred rawhide chews. This results in small pieces of rawhide hanging off the chew. If this occurs, simply cut them away with scissors, as this will prevent the dog from ingesting them. Always supervise any dog with any type of rawhide.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • Dogs love the intense flavor and aroma of most rawhides.<br>• Compressed rawhide is more durable and longer lasting than shredded, compressed rawhide. | • An aggressive chewer may swallow large pieces or consume an entire rawhide quickly, which could cause an intestinal blockage.<br>• Some dogs may suffer from broken teeth or slab fractures of molars from chewing compressed rawhides, so always supervise any dog with any type of chew.<br>• Some added flavorings (visible or not) may stain carpets, some fabrics, and some porous floorings, which in turn can encourage chewing on these items.<br>• Chemical preservatives found in various types of inferior rawhide may be dangerous to your dog's health. |

**Rawhides (Shredded Compressed)**

Shredded compressed rawhides are chews made out of ground rawhide and pressed into a variety of shapes and sizes. This type of chew is available in different flavors. When selecting shredded compressed rawhide, always choose a size that cannot fit completely into the dog's mouth.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • These chews are great for light-to-average chewers and are beneficial to the dog's teeth, gums, and overall dental health. When chewed, they are broken into bits, which usually pass uneventfully through the digestive tract. | • Shredded rawhides are not for aggressive chewers that may swallow large pieces.<br>• They are not as long lasting as other chews and can be consumed quickly.<br>• Some added flavorings (visible or not) may stain carpets, some fabrics, and some porous floorings, which in turn can encourage chewing on these items.<br>• Chemical preservatives found in various types of inferior rawhide may be dangerous to your dog's health. |

**Edible Velvet Bones**



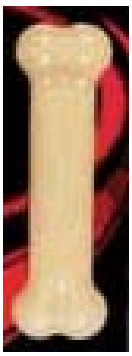
Edible bones are corn starch-based chews that come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and flavors. They are non-toxic, odorless, non-staining to fabrics and carpeting, and come in a velvety texture, which many dogs enjoy. Edible bones are digestible and a good alternative to rawhides, pig/cow ears, or hard plastic chews. Always choose a size that cannot fit completely into the dog's mouth or be consumed too quickly. Always supervise a dog when providing an edible chew bone.

**Examples:** Booda Velvets, Greenies®, and Edible Nylabones®.

**Important Note:** Some dogs may become ill after ingesting these products, so be careful when suggesting them.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Edible velvet bones are non-staining chews that are great for light-to-average chewers.<br>• They help clean the dog's teeth and gums. | • Edible bones are not for aggressive chewers because they are consumed quickly and can easily be broken into pieces.<br>• They do not last as long as other chews. |

**Nylabone®**



Nylabones® are flavor-enhanced chews made from pure nylon, which are designed to satisfy the chewing instinct of an average-to-aggressive chewer. They come in many different sizes, flavors, and shapes for all types of dogs. Always pick a size or shape that cannot fit completely into the dog's mouth. As with all bones, dogs should be monitored during chewing. Many dogs find the Nylabone® less than inspiring to chew. This challenge can be satisfactorily overcome by soaking the Nylabone® in beef or chicken broth for approximately fifteen or twenty minutes, two or three times per week. Provided you can get your dog to chew them, Nylabones® are a good choice as they are durable, safe, and long lasting.

| Pros | Cons |
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| • Nylabones® are a good choice for aggressive chewers that can consume most other chews quickly.<br>• They may be lightly coated in peanut butter for the finicky chewer or as a special treat. | • Some chewers may break teeth or have minor gum irritations due to aggressive chewing, so advise the owner to monitor for safety.<br>• NEVER give an aggressive or average chewer a *flexible* Nylabone® because there is a possibility of large pieces being broken off and becoming lodged in a dog's intestinal tract.<br>• Some dogs are not interested in Nylabones®. |

**Cow Hooves**

Cow hooves are processed cow hooves that may contain flavored stuffing in the large hollowed area. They are available in most pet stores.



**Usage**

These can be given as a chew or their hollow area can be stuffed with peanut butter, canned food, etc. A stuffed hoof can keep a dog occupied for hours as they try to lick out all the bits and pieces of food. Always supervise a dog when providing cow hooves as chews.

| Pros | Cons |
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| • Most dogs naturally like to chew cow hooves, making it easier to strongly fixate the dog on this particular chew toy.<br>• Hooves are readily available and fairly inexpensive. They are also lighter and far less likely to cause damage (when dropped) to flooring. | • The density of cow hooves may cause broken teeth. They can also be chewed into sharp edges that may cause injury to a dog's mouth and/or gastrointestinal tracts.<br>• If dogs consume too much hoof material, it may cause upset stomachs and gas or intestinal blockage.<br>• If grease from stuffing left in the hoof gets onto items like carpeting or fabric furniture, the dog may come back to these and chew them at a later time. |

**Cow Ears**

Cow ears are made from cartilage and fat and may be smoked or dried in the same manner as rawhides and pig ears. They are larger than pig ears and have a lower fat content. However, they still may contain salmonella, so always wash your hands after handling any meat-based chew.



**Usage**

Cow ears can be given as supervised chews, but may be consumed quickly.

| Pros | Cons |
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| • Cow ears are great supervised chews for light-to-average chewers. They should never be given to aggressive chewers who consume large pieces quickly, as they may swallow the entire ear.<br>• Cow ear chews can last longer than pig ears. | • Because cow ears may be consumed quickly, they offer limited dental benefits.<br>• They contain a relatively high fat content and may leave grease stains on carpet or clothing. As noted in other product reviews, this can result in the dog chewing whatever items the stain was left upon.<br>• Some people find the odor objectionable when cow ears get wet (from either the elements or the dog chewing on it). |

**Pig Ears**

Pig ears are made from cartilage and fat and may be smoked or dried in the same manner as rawhides. Because of their high fat content, they may contain salmonella, so always wash your hands when handling any meat-based chew. Pig ears should be given as supervised chews.



| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Pig ears are great supervised chews for light-to-average chewers. They should never be given to aggressive chewers that consume large pieces quickly, as they may swallow the entire ear. | • Because pig ears are consumed so quickly, they offer no dental benefits.<br>• They contain a high fat content and may leave grease stains on carpet or clothing. As noted in other product reviews, this can result in the dog chewing whatever items the stain was left on.<br>• Some people find the odor objectionable when pig ears get wet (from either the elements or a dog chewing on it). |

**KONG Toys**



KONGs are one of the most recognizable dog toys on the market today. Over the years, this product has grown in popularity as trainers, groomers, veterinarians and owners alike have come to recognize and trust KONG's durability. What's more, with a little work, dogs can really learn to love KONGs. KONGs are made of 100% natural rubber. Their interesting honeycomb shape causes them to bounce unpredictably when dropped or batted by a paw. Additionally, they are puncture resistant, non-toxic, non-splintering, and come in several different sizes and shapes. KONGs also have a hollow center, which can be repeatedly filled with favorite treats. Food-filled KONGs can keep many dogs busy for hours.

KONGs are available in Five different natural rubber formulas to meet a dog's chewing needs. The red or as it sometimes called the "Classic" KONG is made for average chewers and comes in variety of sizes (S, M, L, and XL). The black or "Extreme" KONG is made of extra thick rubber, which is designed for tenacious chewers and available in two sizes (L and XL). The Extreme Kong is used by military K-9 teams, drug enforcement and police departments across the world. As its name suggests, the Puppy KONG is designed for puppies. It is made of a softer rubber which provides teething relief and comes in three sizes (S, M, and L). The purple

or "Senior" KONG is made for older dogs who are light chewers and is available in three sizes (S, M, and L). Finally, at the request of veterinarians Kong developed a fifth Kong. This is the "Blue Kong". These KONG'S are 25% stronger than Kong dog toys normally found in pet shops. (in excess of 3800 psi). They can also be stretched up to 9 times their original length and they're highly puncture resistant.

Kong's are often "stuffed" with various treats which increases their desirability to many dogs. Trainers the world over have developed literally hundreds of recipes for stuffing Kong's. These include everything from Peanut Butter and Honey to liver paste. Kong also manufactures several different stuffing products including "Kong Stuff'n liver paste and peanut butter paste. They also make a product called "Ziggies" which can be used to stuff KONGS as well as KONG Stuff'n snacks. For a list of ingredients and updates on new KONG products check out their website at http://www.kongcompany.com/worlds_best.html.

**Usage**

KONGs may be stuffed with peanut butter, canned food, biscuits, cheese, or any favorite, smelly food (do not use chocolate or onions as they are toxic to dogs). In fact over the years the KONG company has received hundreds of recipes to stuff KONGS! This is so popular that the KONG Company markets a variety of KONG stuffings including Ziggies, Stuff'n snacks and Stuff'n pastes. You can also layer different foods in a KONG and freeze it overnight to keep dogs interested for longer periods of time. Hiding food-stuffed KONGs inside or outside can help alleviate boredom, separation anxiety, or other behavioral problems. KONGs are also useful as a "safe" toy to give a dog when crated. Dogs should always be supervised when using KONGs until the owner is confident they can be used safely when they are not present.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • KONGs are easily cleaned after usage and can be repeatedly filled with a favorite food stuffing.<br>• Once filled tightly with food, they can be frozen for longer lasting pleasure. | • Some dogs may puncture an inappropriately sized or textured KONG.<br>• Not all dogs like KONGs. |

**Buster® Cubes**

Buster® Cubes are interactive toys that dispense treats when pushed along the ground. It encourages a dog's natural hunting instincts and helps with behavioral problems through mental stimulation exercises.



**Usage**

Dry treats are inserted into the opening of the Buster® Cube, which are then distributed into the internal compartments of the toy. The dog will try to get to the treats by rolling the cube around. You may have to roll the cube initially so the treats will fall out easily enough to interest the dog. As the dog becomes more skilled, you can adjust the level of difficulty, requiring the dog to push the Buster® Cube multiple times before she gets a treat out of it. Buster® Cubes are great for dogs that are left alone for several hours a day.

| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Once they are shown how to get the treats from the Buster® Cube, most dogs learn to use it quickly.<br>• The Buster® Cube is easily cleaned.<br>• This is an excellent tool for trainers working with bored or under-stimulated dogs. | • A treat-filled Buster® Cube may become noisy when used indoors.<br>• Sometimes dogs may push the Buster® Cube into hard-to-reach areas and become disinterested.<br>• This toy should not be given to aggressive chewers as they may chew or swallow pieces of the hard plastic. |

**Tennis Balls and Rubber Balls**

Although true tennis balls come in very specific sizes, in the world of dog training, the term "tennis ball" has become a bit more generic. For most trainers, a tennis ball is a small, medium, or large soft rubber ball covered in cloth. A rubber ball is a small, medium, or large ball made of soft or sometimes hard rubber.





**Usage**

Balls may be used as toys for fetch or other interactive games with an owner. When choosing a ball, always choose a size that cannot completely fit into the dog's mouth.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • The tennis ball is probably one of the most versatile of all toys and can easily be thrown, hidden, or carried.<br>• Tennis balls and rubber balls are very inexpensive. | • Dogs should NEVER be left unsupervised with any size, shape, or type of ball. Balls may be swallowed whole or chewed into pieces, which can cause serious digestive upsets or intestinal obstructions.<br>• When using a hard rubber ball, never toss it with the intent for the dog to catch it, as this may cause broken or knocked-out teeth.<br>• Some tennis balls have a small squeaky inside. This makes them potentially more dangerous as some dogs have been known to chew them apart and swallow the squeaky. |

**The Chuckit!**



The Chuckit! is made of lightweight, durable plastic and will allow almost anyone to throw a standard-size tennis ball from 100 to 140 feet consistently.



| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • The Chuckit! is a great way to exercise a dog without wearing out your arm.<br>• It is designed for hands-free pickup, so you never have to bend down and pick up a slimy ball again.<br>• You can use it in the park, in your backyard, or anywhere else with plenty of running room.<br>• This product is relatively inexpensive. | • Be careful not to accidentally hit your dog with the device as you're throwing the ball. |

**Frisbees**



A Frisbee is a flat, disc-shaped retrieval toy typically constructed of soft fabric or hard plastic. Some are waterproof for use in lakes and swimming pools. Others are designed to be chewed on by light chewers. After a while, Frisbees that are chewed on lose their aerodynamic shape and become difficult to throw for distance. Always choose a size that is large enough for the dog to handle easily, but not completely fit into her mouth. A

recommended rule for sizing Frisbees is to make sure the Frisbee is much larger than the dog's head.

| Pros  | Cons  |
|---|---|
| • There are many sizes, types, and textures of Frisbees to select from.<br>• There are also many different interactive games that can be played with a Frisbee to entertain owners and their dogs.<br>• Dogs that like to chase Frisbees can be encouraged to exercise as part of the game. This is healthy for the dog. | • Most Frisbees are not for aggressive chewers as they can be ingested by the dog, which could cause serious intestinal problems.<br>• Most dogs will be hard-pressed to play fetch with a Frisbee by themselves. Although some dogs have been known to play with Frisbees by themselves, this toy is typically one that is most effective when the owner and dog play together. |

**Rope Toys**



Rope toys are tightly knotted cotton ropes, which are available in many different sizes, shapes, and lengths. Some have multiple knots, balls, bones or handles attached for various types of entertainment. When choosing a rope toy, find one that cannot completely fit into the dog's mouth. Always choose a longer length rope toy to prevent accidental ingestion or injury when using it as an interactive toy. Never leave any dog unsupervised with any rope toy.



| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Most rope toys are soft and flexible, which makes them attractive to many dogs.<br>• They can be used for various interactive games or as a supervised chew toy.<br>• They may be soaked in cool water for teething puppies during supervised playtime. | • Rope toys are not for aggressive chewers that may swallow or chew the rope toy into pieces.<br>• Because they are soft and flexible, some dogs may mistake them for clothing or other inappropriate fabric objects. This could stimulate problem chewing. |

**Squeaky Toys**

The most popular type of squeaky toy is a brightly colored, latex toy that has a high pitched "squeaky" sound that usually captures a dog's attention. These toys are great during obedience classes when teaching new behaviors such as the "Down" or "Focus" cues. They are also easily hidden in your pocket.





| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • Most squeaky toys are easily washable.<br>• Dogs love the high-pitched sound of the squeaky. | • These are NOT to be used as chew toys because they tear easily and can be swallowed. Never leave any dog unattended with a squeaky toy. |

**Stuffed Toys**

Most stuffed toys are made of material such as faux lamb's wool or other soft, fuzzy fabrics. They are usually stuffed with polyfill stuffing so they are soft, flexible, and can be washed easily. Most stuffed toys have a hidden "squeaky" inside for added sound effects and are available in many different shapes, sizes, and colors. Always choose a size that cannot completely fit into the dog's mouth.



| Pros | Cons |
|---|---|
| • These are great for light-chewing puppies or dogs that enjoy the soft fleecy material and the hidden squeaky. | • Stuffed toys are NOT meant to be used with average-to-aggressive chewers as they may swallow the polyfill stuffing, soft fabric or the hidden squeaky.<br>• These toys may also give a chewing dog the mixed message that it is acceptable to chew on fabric. This can be problematic for dogs who chew clothing, carpeting, or other inappropriate fabric items. |