

Choosing the right equipment to train your dog

■ BY HARRY KALAJIAN

Quality time with your dog is either a leisure time or a training period. When you are in leisure time, meaning no training, make sure not to leave the training equipment on the dog.

Although there are many types of equipment available, only a handful will work. The equipment you need will be based on age and breed. If you use the equipment properly, and if it is adjusted to the right size then you will have success. Quality goes a long way.

A choker or pinch collar will work as long as it is used the right way. Talk to your trainer regarding the many types of training equipment that are offered. When dogs are young and have never been on any training tool, start with a normal collar when walking them. Do this for a week. Keep the dog to your left as much as you can. The dog does not need to heel at that point. All you're trying to do at this point is to have his neck tougher and stronger.

After a week of walking your dog with a normal collar, follow your trainer's advice on what to use after-



wards. They may suggest a martingale, a choker or a pinch collar. On a fully grown dog use a 3 mm choker and make sure there is enough room on the choker for corrections. If using a pinch collar, make sure it's adjusted prior to using it. If you decide to use a pinch collar on a small dog, buy the smaller size. On a bigger dog use a medium size.

It's also a good idea to have a 20-foot light line (leash) 3/8" wide. These are great for distance stays and recall. At some point an E-collar will come in handy for the stubborn dogs or those that haven't practiced a lot. E-collars

should be used after six months of age, unless your trainer tells you otherwise. The E-collar is a good correction for recalls or other distance commands you're using. Talk to your trainer before purchasing one. Quality E-collars, like the Educator, are a good investment.

Don't take advice from friends or neighbors. The trainer has more experience than they do when it comes to training. Every tool you use has its



purpose, and your trainer will tell you why they have chosen a particular tool.

Your dog will be as good as your understanding of the commands. It's okay to make mistakes as long as you correct yourself. The amount of time you designate towards your training will show. Your dog will tell the trainer how much time and effort you have put in. Dogs don't lie.

About the author:

Harry Kalajian M.D.T. has over 35 years of experience in all aspects of training including behaviorist, ethologist, psychologist.

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