

Doggy Ways

Harnesses, Collars & Leashes

The right fit:

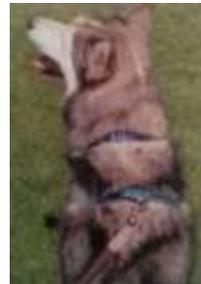
A harness should not be too loose-fitting but instead should have a nice snug fit. If you walk your dog, you want to make sure that your walking harness is suited to your dog and that you are both comfortable when using it.

Walking harnesses:

The most common are the step-in harnesses and H-back harnesses. This is mostly a personal choice as both these harnesses are easily fitted to your dog. Many people often make the mistake of fitting them too loosely. This can cause chafing to your dog from the friction, and your dog can reverse or chew himself out of the harness.



H-back harness



Step-in harness

These are just regular walking harnesses and will not on their own stop a dog from pulling on the lead. You will still need proper training with your dog when using one of these harnesses. With these harnesses, we often in training make use of a multi-purpose lead. The lead is attached with both snaps at the D-ring on top of the harness on the dog's back. The lead then forms a loop that you gently slide over your dog's head. This then puts slight pressure on the chest area of your dog when he pulls forward, which collects your dog's body and serves as a reminder that there must be more slack in the lead. With this method there is no pressure on the dog's trachea and/or oesophagus.



Multi-purpose lead

Anti-pull harnesses:

The non-pull mesh harness is great for medium-size dogs. The elastic webbing stretches laterally with the dog's natural movements, while the unique mesh design provides maximum comfort. This is not an instant cure from pulling; you might still need to work on some training. However, it definitely does assist you when training your dog not to pull.



Easy walk harness



Non-pull mesh harness

Another great harness is the non-pull sense harness which is a wonderful no-pull dog harness that works for positive reinforcement dog training, or just taking gentler walks with your dog. It again reduces pulling without choking your dog.

Collars:

Collars are not a safe way to walk your dog. Not only can most dogs easily slip a collar, but you can also greatly increase the chances of permanently damaging your dog's trachea and/or oesophagus. Consistent yanking on a choke chain as a means of training does little else than make the dog afraid and can even encourage him to pull more. Spraining the muscles of the dog's neck is another lasting impression made by choke chains.



Semi-choke collar

Collars are great if you quickly need to get hold of your dog and to put your dog's nametag on.

Head halters:

This is a management tool that when introduced through force-free training can work great for you and your dog. It gives good control and stops most dogs from pulling. However, the downfall is that you cannot run your dog while wearing this, and it limits your dog's breathing by restricting his muzzle movement. A head halter keeps your dog's head with you so that he is not able to pull down and forward. Once you take the head halter off, your dog is likely to revert to pulling again. Therefore, the training is associated with the head halter only, as the head halter is a management tool.



Head halter

All collars, leads, harnesses and head halters are management tools and are there to assist us in our training. It should not be the only thing used to control your dog and should not replace good, solid, force-free training.