

*****Dummy Collar Training Instructions*****

Info: What we have rented to you is one of our Dogtra dummy collars. It is a replica shock collar that mimics the general size, shape, and feel of the real, functional shock collars we will be using to train your dog in snake or toad avoidance training at the time of your appointment. This dummy collar, however, is no more than a replica and is NOT a functioning shock collar. There is no battery and no shock feature.

What this creates is a fake e-collar that we can use to trick dogs into getting used to the feel of wearing one, so much so that when we put a real shock collar on them - they don't know the difference. On the official training day when they approach the snake or toad and get a shock from the real collar, they think the snake or toad is the thing that is 100% responsible for where that shock came from, and thus learn the lesson that much more effectively (and associate nothing with the collar). While most dogs do this anyway, there are some tricky dogs that make collar associations out of our control. That is where this training becomes necessary to either prevent or reverse those collar associations.

For instance, your dog may have been traumatized by another companies' harsh training methods and abusive use of the e-collars. This dummy collar training may help to re-establish a neutral or even positive association with wearing the collar as you incorporate it randomly into their daily routine before attempting more or different aversion training. Or, maybe your dog is extremely fearful and shy as is, especially with anything new and uncomfortable. In this case you can create normalcy of wearing the collar beforehand, so that when we put the real collar on your dog, it is far less likely to shut down because we didn't do anything it isn't already used to. Maybe your dog is not used to wearing a collar at all, and you simply want to get them used to that part beforehand to get the most out of the upcoming lesson. These are just a few examples of how dummy collar training may be a necessary part of your dog's snake/toad avoidance training experience - and is one of the many ways we do our best to work with any and every client and their individual dog's needs to get the most out of the training. See reverse side for instructions.

*Like with any other collar, please note that we cannot be held responsible for any harm your dog causes to itself while wearing the collar, nor any harm inflicted on you while attempting to collar your dog.

Instructions:

We recommend that this collar be worn by your dog AT LEAST twice a day for short, supervised periods of 15-30 minutes*. Be sure to put this collar on tighter than their normal everyday collar.

We recommend putting the collar on just before releasing them into the backyard or once out in the yard, though you do not need to do it every time you let them out (no more than 50% of the time, and as long as that means at least twice a day).

We also recommend giving your dog a favorite treat right after they accept wearing the collar to create positive associations with its usage.

If possible, occasionally allow others including a stranger to the dog to take the collar on/off. (Do NOT do this if your dog is in any way aggressive toward new people being in their face!)

*We don't recommend longer because we don't want to risk the dog chewing off the collar or damaging it in other ways, and we also recognize it may not be comfortable to take a nap in. The 15-30 supervised minutes of any normal outdoor activity in the collar should prevent these issues while providing utmost benefits. "Supervised" does not necessarily mean constant watching. We just hope that the dog isn't left outside unattended for hours on end with the collar on (for safety reasons too) as this is how lost or destroyed collars happen. The shorter timing also closely matches our avoidance training durations anyway. Don't worry, if your dog does severely damage or lose the collar - we will forgive you :) Yes, your dog is perfectly welcome to swim or take a bath with the collar on.

Please remember that we are loaning this collar to you and expect to have it returned to us in decent condition on the day of your training appointment so that we can continue to use it. Lastly, if there are any complications or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!



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