

Dummy Collar Training

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 low cost, 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 that 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. (We see this when performing a follow up on a dog that immediately shuts down after the collar is put on). 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 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 cower 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. Continue reading for specific instructions...

*****WARNING***** 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. Also keep in mind that these collars are NOT made for indefinite or prolonged use. The contact points on these collars may cause irritations on sensitive dog's skin much like a bad pair of hiking shoes can cause a blister on your ankle. That said, do not put this collar on your dog and then forget about it for hours. Be sure to check their neck for irritation after each use just to be safe. If you notice any issues, remove the collar and contact us.

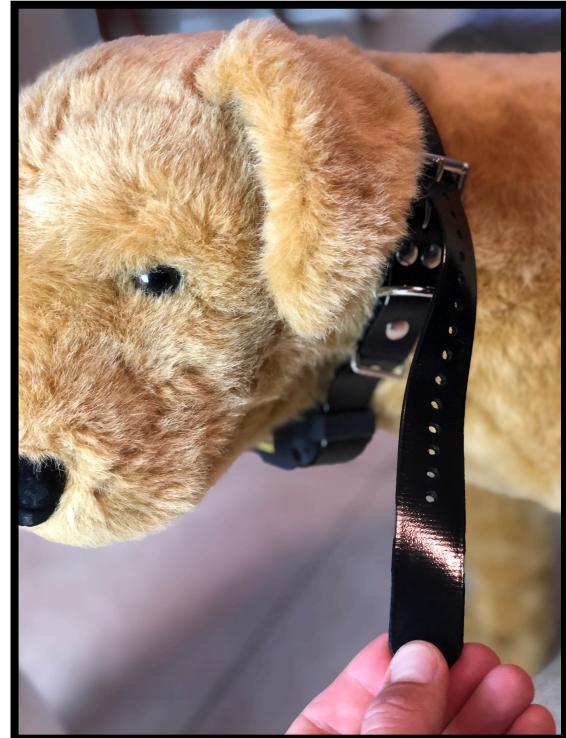
Putting on the Collar:

Apply the collar around your dog's neck much like any regular collar. The fake receiver (box shaped part) should be centered on the dog's throat area. It should be tight enough that you can only slide ~2 fingers beneath the strap while on the dog. The receiver should stay in one place and not slide around or hang in any way as the dog moves around.



Unless your dog is very large with a very wide neck, there will likely be a lot of excess strap to deal with. This will be the same problem with our real e-collars during training as we need our collars for all different sizes of

dogs on a daily basis, and that is why they have not been trimmed. You don't want a lot of extra strap dangling around as it will bother your dog and look silly, so there are a couple tricks we use. Here is what we do with the excess collar slack:



- 1) Locate the two metal rings on the side of the collar. Run the excess strap through BOTH rings. (This may be sufficient for very large dogs).



2) If there is still plenty left over, run the excess strap back through the first D-ring (top) to make a “half-bow”. (This may be sufficient for medium-large dogs).



3) If there is still plenty more, run the excess strap once more through the top ring again to create a “bow”. You can pull on the strap in the direction necessary to even out the bow and make your dog look especially handsome. (This is sufficient for most small-medium dogs).



TRAINING INSTRUCTIONS:

We recommend that this collar be worn by your dog once a day for a short, supervised period of 15-20 minutes.

We recommend putting the collar on just before releasing them into the backyard, or once already out in the yard.

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 to take the collar on/off. (Do NOT do this if your dog is in any way aggressive toward strangers being in their face!)

Again, DO NOT leave the collar on for extended periods of time (i.e. over 20 minutes) to avoid certain safety concerns.



We don't recommend longer than 20 minute usage 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 20 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 and possibly skin irritations. This 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. If at any point there are any complications or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us! We thank you for your business and hope that this instruction document was helpful.



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