

How to Use a Pinch Collar Properly

BY: Kimberly Bobka

TEACHER'S PET K-9 SCHOOL

© Copyright 2000, 2001, 2002

If you don't use the pinch collar properly you could seriously hurt your dog!!

The pinch collar should only be used for training and not be left on the dog for more than an hour at a time. Otherwise it may irritate the dogs neck and/or they could get it caught on something and hurt themselves.

It is understandable that some people may need a stronger method of training and controlling their dog. In most cases it is necessary when people own dominant and/or aggressive dogs who need more control than others. In these cases, a pinch collar which is used properly is all it takes to regain some leadership over your dog. The following illustrations will help you by showing a pinch collar, the correct placement on the dogs neck and a description of how to use it. Used in this manner the pinch collar is easier on the dog's throat than a choke because it rests above the larynx and is never **pulling**—which could crush it!



The pinch should rest **snuggly** in the center of the dogs neck. Up higher than where the choke collar would lay, but not up so high that it's in the pits of the back of the ears. **It is supposed to simulate a pack member's or mother's teeth on the back of their neck!**

The prongs or pokers should be on the **BACK** of the neck **NOT** on the throat. The part of the chain that is smooth **without** pokers should go on the dogs throat. **It will turn slightly as you walk but should not slide around easily and/or completely on the dogs neck.**

If the collar is too loose and/or turned around so the prongs are in the throat, and you or the dog pulls, it could puncture holes in the dogs throat!

Your leash hooks to the outer latch of the collar and the buckle of the leash should always hang down loosely while walking the dog. If the dog is not paying attention or tries to pull, it should be corrected by a quick, sharp, jerk-release of the chain.

**THIS IS WHY IT IS CALLED A "PINCH" COLLAR.
IT QUICKLY PINCHES TOGETHER THEN RELEASES.**

The dog should never be allowed to pull on the lead - especially while wearing a pinch collar. Because not only are you strangling the dog, but with a pinch collar, you're strangling it with pokers in it's neck.

**The dog doesn't care that it is hurting itself when pulling,
as long as it gets away with doing what it wants.**



The collar should NEVER slide over the dogs head, twist or turn around easily, or be down too far on the dogs neck. If you feel sorry for the dog and try to put the collar on loosely by adding more links, you are going to really hurt your dog. When the collar is turned so the pokers are in its throat and you jerk on the chain, you are basically stabbing your dog in the throat! If you have it on loosely and allow the dog to pull it hurts the dog and could poke holes in their throat!

When you buy a collar you will have to **remove links** to make it fit snuggly. There are also different sizes of links to buy. The small ($\frac{1}{2}$ " link is for small terriers and very small aggressive breeds, the middle (1") link is for most middle to large (up to 120 lbs) breeds, and the heavy duty large ($1\frac{1}{2}$ " link is for xlarge breeds like Mastiffs and large Rottweilers. Buy the collar according to the dogs size or it will not work properly and/or hurt your dog. If you buy the wrong size or have it on incorrectly it could also come apart when using it. Also, **DO NOT** buy a pinch collar with a **"quick release"** on the smooth part of the chain. It will come apart when using it. This is for people who are unable to put on the collar by squeezing the links. Make sure you **DO NOT** buy a pinch collar with rubber tips on the prongs! The metal pokers move nicely on the dogs skin and fur, whereas the rubber tips pull on their hair and skin which hurts! And I **NEVER** use a pinch collar on a puppy under 5 or 6 months of age! You will be starting at one of the highest levels of collars *and* it will scare the crap out of your pup!

Remember to consult an informed professional before buying and using a pinch collar

Because if your dog doesn't need one you shouldn't use one!!