



Prong Collar Tips

A training collar is an extremely valuable tool in training your dog, but to be effective, it must be used properly. Follow these simple tips to make sure you and your dog stay on the right track.

1. The collar should only be on your dog when you are able to supervise.

There is no need to leave the collar on your dog if you are not able to train or if your dog is going to sleep. Remove the collar before bedtime and when you are unable to keep an eye on your dog.

2. Make sure the collar fits snugly.

In order for the collar to be effective, it needs to fit your dog properly. Ask your NLN trainer if you have any question about the fit of your dog's collar.

3. Always use a leash in the beginning.

Keep a leash attached to your dog while inside. This will allow you to assist your dog in performing the correct behavior and assist you in consistency.

4. Use a leash or long line (20 - 30 ft) when outside and attempting off leash control.

Until you are comfortable with your dog executing commands, keep him/her on a leash while outside in case they try to run from you. Not all dogs will be capable of being off-leash and there are leash laws to obey, please remember this for you and your dog's safety.

5. Stay Consistent to eliminate confusion in your dog.

When training your dog, make sure you are consistent. For example, if you tell your dog to sit, be sure that you follow through and that your dog sits every time. Do not command what you cannot enforce. After several training sessions practicing a command, your dog should begin to obey quickly. This is because the dog now understands your verbal command and he/she is more certain of the correct response. After the dog is responding reliably, you can begin to add distance and duration. Also, do not allow your dog to do something at sometimes and not at others. For example, if your dog jumps up on you and you are okay with it sometimes, you must name the command. If you correct it on one day but not on others, your dog will be confused. If you want to allow a behavior sometimes, give it a command; then your dog will understand that he/she may exhibit the behavior only if given the command.



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6. **Do not command and correct at the same time.**

Give your dog a chance to perform the correct behavior. Keep a leash attached to your dog while inside for the first few days of training. This will allow you to assist your dog in performing the correct behavior. **As long as the dog responds correctly within 1-2 seconds, you do not need to give a correction. However, if your dog ignores the command, you must correct your dog and re-issue the command. To gain off-leash control, we recommend consistent follow through each time a command is given.** We recommend using the training collar whenever you take your dog to any environment where there are distractions outside of your control- e.g. dog parks, walking, etc. This is because you might be surprised by another dog, squirrel or situation, and the collar will allow you to quickly re-gain control of your dog.

7. **Correct in the direction of the command.**

If you ask your dog to sit, the correction is straight up over their head. If asked to lie down, the correction will be out in front of the dog and towards the floor. **The correction for place will always be back in the direction of the place.** The corrections are meant to assist your dog in figuring out the correct response for each command. If you have any questions ask your NLN trainer.

8. **Be Neutral in your marks and commands.** Do not yell or scream “No” when you dog is not performing the behaviors. Calmly say “No” and give your dog the opportunity to correct his behavior on his own before correcting. Your dog has learned what are appropriate behaviors and understand the difference between “Yes” and “No”. Give him the chance to fix a mistake before a correction is applied.

9. **Remove collar when necessary.** If your dog’s neck ever seems irritated or red, remove the collar and make sure it is not too tight. Keep the collar off until you are comfortable that is not causing any discomfort during normal wear.

Following these simple tips will ensure your training goes smoothly and effectively. Get out there and have some fun with your dog!!