

The prong collar may be especially suited for teams in which the handler is small or otherwise out-muscled by the dog, or in which the dog is prone to pulling or sudden bursts of activity. It may also be advised for dogs that already have a damaged trachea or damaged neck muscles, since it is unlikely to aggravate such injuries.

Alpha Dog will help you select the proper size prong collar for your dog, help you to fit it correctly, and show you how to use it safely. There is no charge or obligation for this service.



*A properly fitted prong collar*

For more information about prong collar fitting and other services, contact us at:

***Alpha Dog***  
***Canine Obedience Training***

RR1 Station Main  
Carleton Place, Ontario  
K7C 3P1  
613-286-WOOF (9663)

[www.alphadogobedience.com](http://www.alphadogobedience.com)  
[cherie@alphadogobedience.com](mailto:cherie@alphadogobedience.com)

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## Prong Collar Fitting

A free service of

**alpha dög**  
canine obedience training



## Prong Collar Fitting

As a free service to the community, Alpha Dog will help you select and fit a prong collar for your dog.

The prong (or pinch) collar is often misunderstood. Some people believe it to be cruel and dangerous. However, used properly, it can be a safe, humane, and effective training tool.

The prong collar is usually made of interlocking steel links like a chain, with two blunt prongs on each link. When the collar tightens, the prongs pinch the dog's skin.

## Is The Prong Collar Cruel?

There's no denying that the prong collar certainly appears cruel. It looks as if it's designed to cause pain and injury. In fact, the opposite is true.

First, the prongs themselves are blunt, designed to pinch, not pierce, much like the firm but gentle bite of a mother dog on the neck of a rambunctious puppy.

Second, the collar is made so it can only tighten so far. It is self-restricting. Once all the links are engaged, it can't get any tighter.

A properly fitted prong collar will not strangle a dog, as a choke collar may. Some studies indicate that prong collars may be safer than choke collars, less likely to cause injuries to a dog's trachea, neck, and back.



*A typical prong collar*

The Veterinary Information Network explains this further. "Despite its looks, the pinch collar can be less cruel than the more popular choke collar. ... That's because a properly fitted pinch collar cannot be tightened beyond the point of pushing the prongs against the skin, unlike the choke collar, which has no limits -- the harder you or the dog pulls, the tighter it gets."

To further allay your fears, you may wish to try the collar on yourself, perhaps around your arm or leg. You'll almost certainly find that while it's a bit uncomfortable when it tightens, it's hardly the barbaric instrument of torture it appears to be.

You should also consult with your veterinarian. Most vets will readily recommend the prong collar over the choke collar for training purposes.

## Is The Prong Collar Right For My Dog?

Dogs are as unique as people are. No one training method or one training device is best for every dog, or for every human/canine team. It's important to select a training method -- and a collar -- which will be successful and enjoyable for both you and your dog. Alpha Dog can help you make that selection.

Dogs learn best when they're given simple choices with clear advantages (positive reinforcement) or disadvantages (negative reinforcement). Prong collars provide negative reinforcement. When the dog pulls, the collar tightens and becomes uncomfortable, a clear disadvantage that enables the dog to self-correct. The dog quickly learns that it is to his advantage not to pull and soon breaks the pulling habit. Often, a prong collar is used only in initial training until the dog 'graduates' to a conventional flat collar.