

ALONE AT HOME PET SERVICES

WHERE DROOL IS COOL!

July 2024

THE CANINE COLLAR: THE INSIDE SCOOP



Image by Lenka Novotná, Pixabay

Whether used for a specific task or a bold fashion statement below is what you need to know about your dog's collar.

Why Do Dogs Wear Collars?

Besides being a trendy fashion statement, there are five common reasons why modern-day dogs wear collars.

- ~ Training.
- ~ To protect the dog.
- ~ To attach a leash.
- ~ To maintain control of the dog.
- ~ Tags for ID, License, Vaccinations and Medical Conditions.

Dog Collars: Common Types

- ~ **Martingale Collars:** The soft fabric or nylon connect with the neck instead of the metal/chain.
- ~ **Tactical Collars:** Typically used with working dogs such as: police, military, Search and Rescue and hunting dogs offering functionality and control.
- ~ **Breakaway Collars:** The collar will break away on it's own when under pressure.
- ~ **Quick-Release Collars:** Requires a person to release the buckle; may jam under pressure and not release.
- ~ **Head Collars:** Used to keep a dog's head in place and prevent pulling. Includes the Gentle Leader, Halti and others.

Other people replace a dog collar with a simple slip lead looped around the dog's neck.

Regardless which collar you use, always properly fit it for your dog (you should be able to get two fingers under the collar). Adjust the collar as your puppy grows and as older collars may loosen over time. **Avoid a collar that is too loose allowing the dog to back out of the collar and get free!**

Things to AVOID

While some still use choke/chain collars, prong collars and shock collars, they are not approved for use under the "fear-free" definition for preventing fear, pain, anxiety and stress in dogs.

Also, all collars should be removed at home to prevent dog collar strangulation during the night, while your dog is crated, playing with other dogs or left unsupervised. (Source: RyderSafeFoundation.com)

THE EVOLUTION OF THE DOG COLLAR



Warring States Period Dog Collar (481/403 BCE - 221 BCE)
(Gary Todd, Public Domain)

Ancient **Egyptian** Pharaohs and Queens are believed to be the first to use ornate leather dog collars. Rather than a tool to restrain dogs, collars were viewed as an accessory and possibly identification.

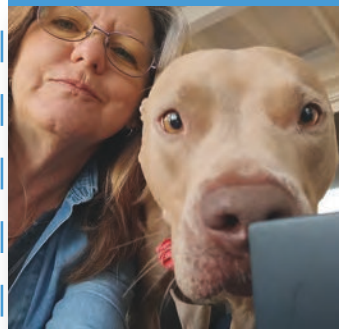
In **Greek and Roman** societies, leather dog collars featured studs or metal spikes to protect a herding dog's throat from wolf bites.

During the **Middle Ages**, the middle class began keeping dogs as pets. A padlocked leather collar was used to prove ownership of a dog as only the rightful owner would have the key. In addition, the upper class created dog collars with unique designs, precious metals and priceless gems to display one's power, wealth and class status.

Today, collars are made in a variety of materials and embellishments for a variety of uses, occasions and of course, fashion statements!

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Protect Your Pet From Foxtails

WHAT ARE FOXTAILS?

Foxtail plants are grass-like weeds with sharp seeds. Tiny hair-like structures (called awns) on each foxtail seed make it easy for them to attach to pets, usually dogs. Foxtail seeds inside your pet can eventually reach vital organs, causing infection and even death.



SYMPTOMS



If you notice any of the following symptoms, check for foxtail seeds or see your veterinarian:

- Signs of distress like limping or trouble breathing
- Swelling or redness
- Constant licking or scratching themselves
- Shaking their head or tilting it to one side
- Discharge around the eyes or nose
- Wounds or abscesses

TIPS TO HELP YOUR PET:

- Keep your dog out of overgrown, grassy areas.
- After a walk, check your dog's entire body for foxtail seeds, including legs, paws, pads of their paws, and their ears, eyes, nose, mouth, gums, and genitals.
- If you notice any foxtails on your pet, gently pull them out with a pair of tweezers. If you can't remove them, take your pet to a veterinarian.
- Check your yard for foxtail plants and completely remove them.
- Keep your dog's coat short during the summer and fall, especially on its legs and feet.



SOURCES: Penn State Extension: "How to Tell Foxtail from Timothy and Control It." U.C. Davis Veterinary Medicine: "Foxtails and Dogs." San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SFSPCA): "Protect Your Pet from the Dangers of Foxtails."

Graphic Courtesy of FETCH by WebMD. Reviewed by Vanessa Farmer, DVM on 01/29/2024.



AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE: FOXTAILS

The grass-like foxtail plant is at full bloom throughout the United States. It may look soft and harmless, but these weeds have sharp tips dogs can **step on**, **brush by** or worse, **inhale!**

It's the tiny hairs on each seed (called awns) that make them dangerous. Once the pointy awn embeds into your dog's skin, paws, nose, eyes, ears or mouth, they work deeper into your dog's body because the hairlike hooks do not allow the seeds to work themselves back out.

PREVENTION IS BEST!

Avoid meadows, flatlands and grasslands with full sunlight where foxtail plants love to flourish.

Foxtail seeds do not break down in your dog's body so always **thoroughly** check for any foxtails after each walk **before** they can become embedded.

Gently pull any foxtails out with a pair of tweezers. If you are not able to remove them, take your pet to the vet **immediately** to avoid further injury and risk.

Learn More at **FETCH by WebMD** and the infographic to the left.

YES! DOGS CAN EAT THESE FRUITS!

Offer your pup the fresh fruits below to keep them happy and hydrated.

(Freeze bite-sized pieces!)

Remember, only in moderation due to their sugar content!

Apples (No Seeds)
Bananas
Blackberries
Blueberries
Cantaloupe
Cranberries
Honeydew
Kiwis (No Seeds/Skin)
Mango
Oranges
Peaches
Pears
Pineapple
Raspberries
Strawberries
Watermelon

Cucumbers & Tomatoes
(Yes, these are both fruits!)

COOL STUFF FOR THE DOG LOVER THE ANIMAL SOUL CONNECTION

As dog guardians, we want to give our furry canines their BEST possible life, physically, emotionally and beyond! But what if you want to create and nurture an ongoing **soul connection and deeper bond** with your pet?

Meet Alison Martin, the **Founder of Animal Soul Connection!** For more than 25 years, Alison has worked to make positive impacts on both animals and their people through Animal Communication and Energy Therapy.

Is your pet experiencing physical, emotional or behavioral issues? Alison's **Animal Communication** can give you clarity and peace of mind about what's **really** going on with your pet. No more guessing and hit-or-miss efforts!

Once it is clear what is affecting your pet, Alison's **Energy Therapy** can help them release any stress, and guide them to heal themselves with a return to full health and comfort! Even if your pet is **not** experiencing any issues, let Alison "translate" what your pet is thinking and needing for a tighter and deeper bond with your animal companion!

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Disclaimer: This information does not constitute professional veterinary advice. **Always** work with your regular licensed vet when it comes to your dog and their specific medical history, overall condition, age and breed.