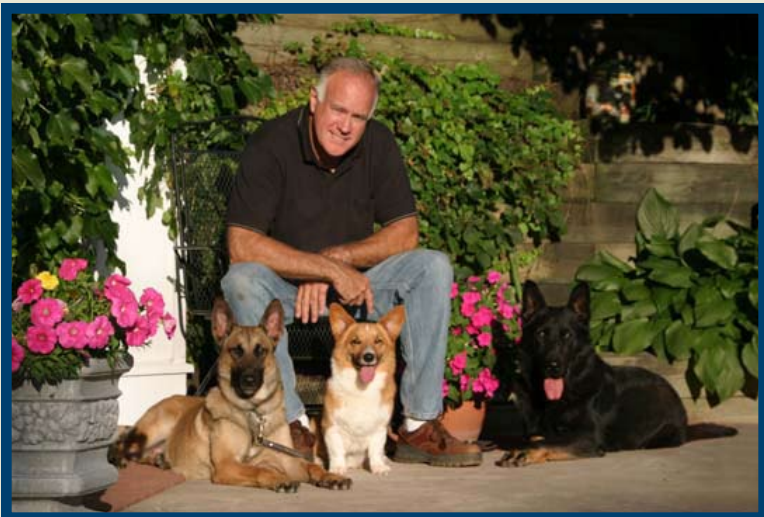


How to Fit a Prong Collar



By: Ed Frawley



Leerburg Video & Kennels

Foreword

When you view this eBook in PDF format. Click on **BOOKMARKS** on the top left side of your PDF reader, these bookmarks are eBook chapters.

[Leerburg Kennel](#) and Video is owned by Ed Frawley.

Ed has owned German Shepherds (GSD) for over 45 years. Since 1978 he has bred over 350 litters of German working bloodline GSD's. His dogs work in law enforcement, as S&R dogs, as competition Schutzhund dogs, and as family companions and protectors.

Since 1980 Ed has produced over 120 dog training videos and DVDs. He was a police K-9 handler for 10 years, competed in several dog sports, including AKC obedience and Schutzhund. In addition he has built one of the top dog training supply businesses in the world.

If you go to the web site **Leerburg.com**® you will see that it has over 10,000 printed pages. The Leerburg Web Discussion board has over 10,000 registered members_ and over 120,000 posts in the archives. Learn to use our site search function

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HOW TO FIT A PRONG COLLAR

By Ed Frawley



I have trained more dogs than I can remember with prong collars. Not all dogs need them but for those that do I call them POWER STEERING ON DOGS.

They are excellent for many people who own dogs with behavioral problems. While many think a prong looks nasty the fact is they are far more humane than a normal choke collar.

The biggest problem with prong collars is that new dog owners don't know how to put them on, how to size them or how their dog should wear them. This article will address these issues. It will not address the decisions made on which dogs need them and how to use them in a training program. I leave that to my [DVD on Basic Dog Obedience](#).

Normal choke collars need to be ordered by length (i.e. 22 inches long etc.) Prong collars on the other hand are ordered by weight - [Small](#), [Medium](#), [Large](#), [Extra Large](#). Prong collars come in a standard length which is adjusted to fit the neck of the dog by removing or adding links to the collar.

Prong collars (unlike choke collars) are meant to be put on and taken off before and after daily training sessions. Choke collars are often left on the dog all the time (in some cases this can be a dangerous practice because dogs can hang themselves if they are kennel climbers).

One of the most common mistakes new trainers make is they don't remove enough links to get the correct snug fit. When that happens the collar hangs down on the dogs neck which results in the collar not working the way that it was designed. A prong collar should fit the way you see it in the photo below.



Properly Fit Prong Collar on a Doberman

The correct position for a prong collar is to sit right behind the ears and up under the jaw line like you see in the photo above. The photo below shows how many people mistakenly let a dog wear a prong.



This photo above demonstrates a prong collar that was not properly sized for the dog. The collar is too loose and riding too far down on the dog's neck. It should be up where I have drawn the yellow line.



This collar is correctly sized and fits properly. The rings on the leash are attached to the right place on the side of the neck.

Sizing the Prong

Adding and Removing Links

Some people mistakenly try and put a prong collar on their dog by slipping it over the dogs head and then moving it down on the neck. That's wrong. Prong collars are designed to be put on and taken off by unhooking links and actually unsnapping the collar from around the neck.

The right way to unhook a collar is to pinch one of the links and pull it apart. Taking the collar off is always easier than putting it back on.



This photo shows how to pinch a link and take the collar off the dog's neck. It does not matter which link you pinch.



This photo shows how to start reconnecting a link to put the collar back on the dog's neck.

Put one side of the prong of a link in one side of the connecting link. Then squeeze the other side of that link with your thumb until that side drops into place.



When both prongs are lined up (by using thumb pressure on the link) the collar will go back together.

Most Common Mistake

When new trainers try to push both sides of the link together at the same time, it gets very hard, if not impossible to clip the prong together.



Proper Placement Once the Collar is on the Dog



Most of the time when a collar is put on a dog the handler connects the collar with the links behind the dog's ears - this is the easiest place to access the links (by the red arrow in the above photo). Once the collar is on the neck

the rings to connect the leash to are under the dog's chin - which is the wrong place for them to be. You will have to rotate the collar so the rings are on the right side of the neck like you see in the photo below.



This photo shows a proper fitting prong collar - it is sized properly, it is sitting in the correct spot on the dogs neck and the rings are located in the correct spot for the leash to be attached (*right side of the neck*).

Dead-Ring vs Live-Ring

There are two ways to attach a leash to the prong collar. It can either be connected to the live-ring or the dead-ring. Which one you choose will depend on the dog and what you are trying to do.



Leash that is attached to the live-ring on the prong collar.

When a correction is given and the leash is connected to the live ring the dog gets an amplified correction.

The live-ring is used if a dog does not respond well to the snap being placed on the dead-ring.



This photo shows how to attach a snap to the dead-rings on the prong collar.

The first time a prong is used on a dog the snap should always be on the dead-ring. [Look at the Prong Collars we have for sale!](#)

The Leerburg

Recommended Safety System

for ALL Prong Collars

We strongly recommend a [dominant dog collar](#) be used every time a prong collar is used.

It is not unheard of (see the e-mail below) for a mistake to happen and a prong collar comes apart when you give a correction. This happened while filming my [Basic Dog Obedience DVD](#) and I included that footage in the DVD.

The problem is that people give corrections when dogs are not following directions. So if a pet owner corrects their dog for showing unwarranted aggression and the collar pops off the dogs neck at that moment in time there is a good chance that the owner will be up to his neck in a problem.

If your dog wears a back-up [dominant dog collar](#) at the same time as it wears his prong collar this will never be a problem because the dog will still be on leash.

Simply attach the clip on the leash to both the prong and the ring on the dominant dog collar. Like in the next photo.



The clip on the leash is attached to the prong collar
and the dominant dog collar



The Pull Tab is attached
to the Prong and dominant dog collar

Emails about Prong Collars

An example of a serious problem

Ed

I have a female Pit bull that weighs 65 pounds. I am interested in purchasing a muzzle from your web-site, but I don't know what size to get. Could you please advise?

She attacked a small dog when she got off of her pinch collar the other day, now I want to muzzle her to keep this from happening again.

Testimonials on Prong Collar

September 15, 2003

Dear Mr Frawley,

I know you've heard it all before, but here's yet another thrilled dog owner who just found out - thanks to your site - just wonder fantastic this prong collar actually is!

You know, before finding your site I always thought that the prong collar was some sort of torture instrument for dog owners in countries like Turkey (I am reminded of their prisons)...

But it's just not so!! Today, after spending the last month or so reading and re-reading your entire site, I went out and purchased a prong collar. I was all sweaty and nervous as I handed over the money (thinking "what will the neighbors think?!")

Well, I got home and the first thing I did was to fit the collar onto my dog exactly as you instructed. Then I went out for a walk. I braced myself. But nothing came, no pulls, NOTHING!!! All I had was this well behaved "imposter". She pulled slightly ONCE, felt the tightening and decided there and then that it wasn't worth it. And I had it on the "dead ring"! For the very first time Baby walked beside me. Normally she'll pull so much that her eyes turn red and buggy!

For me, you are the final word when it comes to dogs and dog training. I've had so many people give me advice on what to do. Nothing worked and I was getting frustrated.

Now, my dog is only 5 months old, but she is exceedingly strong; her father is an Am. bulldog and her mother is an Am. Staffordshire/Eng. bull terrier. Now, from what I've read on your site my puppy has a high prey drive, extremely mouthy and loves to run after toys and shake the life out of them. She's extremely friendly with everyone but will chase joggers and bicycles, anything that moves fast, really. She seems to possess nerves of steel - simply fears nothing! She's a wonderful cuddly, sweetly of a dog and I don't want to make mistakes in training her. I've been concerned about the chasing but she doesn't react with the choker at all. I am attempting to order your video on basic dog training (hope I can get it here to Denmark).

Anyway, I know I'm rattling on, but I just want to take my hat off to you and your site.

Charlene Urup
Denmark

An email from someone who did not fit her prong collar properly:

Ed

I have a 110-lb Rottie/Siberian mix. WONDERFUL dog, definite alpha male. Has done extremely well with obedience training. No longer makes obvious efforts to challenge me as pack leader.....except for walking nicely on a leash. Have tried EVERYTHING. Have used a Gentle Leader collar...pulls so hard on it that (even though properly fitted) nose loop tightens and cuts mouth/jowls, and STILL he continues to pull. Choke/slip collars.....has broken two of those - and today, he snapped his first prong collar. I know his ability...and need...to pull has a lot to do with his breed types, but this is unreal. I grew up with large dogs as my father trained them for the K-9 unit and personal protection and I have NEVER seen a dog that absolutely would not or could not learn to walk properly on a leash. I'm sure Jesse could learn to do this, IF I just knew proper steps to help him. I've tried everything I know and have consulted other trainers who have simply referred me back to the Gentle Leader head collar(they say prong and choke collars are barbaric and inhumane...although the Gentle Leader is actually cutting through his lip?), which is completely useless on this dog. Jesse has to master this skill, not only for my sake, but so he can get his CGC and join therapy dog program in our area. He's already working in an "unofficial capacity" and is wonderful with the groups he visits, but walking him to their location is another story.

Any help would be GREATLY appreciated!!!!!!

Shannon

Ed's Answer on Prong Collar that comes off

I do have to smile at these instructors that recommend "gentle leaders". These trainers who push "gentle leaders" lack experience and are clueless. You and your dog are the PERFECT EXAMPLE that demonstrate how misguided their advice is. These people simply don't understand pack structure.

Your dog may love you but he certainly does not respect you. You ARE NOT HIS PACK LEADER.

If your prong collar popped off your collar was not properly fit. It should have been the extra heavy prong and it should have been put on correctly.

I have an article on my web site that explains how to size a prong collar. When these collars pop off they are almost always too loose.

Fact is I recommend people back up the prong by having the dog also wear a [dominant dog collar](#) along with the prong collar. Connect the leash to both the prong collar and dominant dog collar at the same time.

Fact is if this were my dog it would be trained with a remote collar.

Last year I produced a training DVD titled [Electric Collar Training for the Pet Owner](#) This DVD will teach you how to train with low level stimulation.

You will learn how to deal with dogs that try and pull people down the street along with how to deal with dogs that are aggressive to other dogs.

Regards

Ed

Other recommended material to read and study

Four DVD's

There are 4 DVD's I recommend to people who find their way to this eBook:

Establishing Pack Structure with the Family Pet



Basic Dog Obedience



Dealing with Dominant and Aggressive Dogs



Remote Collar Training for the Pet Owner.



Leerburg Training Articles

(these are all active links)

[Ed Frawleys Philosophy of Dog Training.](#)

[Learn to Obedience Train Your Dog using MARKERS](#)

[The Theory of Correction in Dog Training](#)

[Dominant Dog Collars - How to Fit Them - How to Use Them](#)

[How to Break up a Dog Fight Without Getting Hurt](#)

[Selecting a Muzzle for Your Dog](#)

[How to Fit a Muzzle](#)

[Introducing a New Dog to a Home with Existing Dogs](#)

[Preventing Dog Bites in Children](#)

[Dealing with Dominant Dogs](#)

Leerburgs Herm Springer Chrome Prong Collars

[To view details or buy click here](#)

<i>Small</i>	<i>12" - 15" Neck</i>
<i>Medium</i>	<i>15" - 21" Neck</i>
<i>Large</i>	<i>17" - 23" Neck</i>
<i>Extra Large</i>	<i>19" - 25" Neck</i>

Leerburgs Stainless Steel Prong Collars

Imported from Herm Sprenger

[To view Details or Buy click here](#)

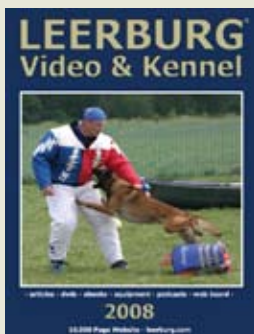
<i>Large</i>	<i>17" to 23" Neck</i>
<i>Extra Large</i>	<i>19" to 25" Neck</i>

Leerburg Stainless Steel MICRO Prong Collars

[Click here to buy or for more information](#)

<i>Mini Prong Collar</i>	<i>Dogs UNDER 5 pounds Up to 9 Inch neck</i>
<i>Micro Prong Collar</i>	<i>Dogs OVER 5 pounds Up to a 9 inch neck</i>

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