

## Training Tools and Equipment

### Treats as training tools

Treats are merely a tool to help your dog respond reliably to a cue. If you practice cues wherever you go, your dog will soon begin to generalize them and learn to respond no matter where you are or what the distraction. You should start by asking for simple behaviours like “sit” in a low-excitement environment, then slowly begin to increase the level of difficulty by adding distractions.

Treats are not a bribe; they should be used as motivation and reward for creating, fine-tuning and luring behaviours.

### Leashes, collars and harnesses

All you need when you bring home a new puppy is a well-fitting flat buckle or martingale collar and a flat or round braided leash.

Harnesses can be used as well, but keep in mind most harnesses promote pulling. Many harnesses that are designed to attach to the leash at your dog’s back or shoulders distribute the “weight” and make it easier and more comfortable for the dog to put pressure on their handler. Think of dog sledding. If you opt for a harness, choose a “no-pull” style such as the Freedom harness, Easy Walk harness, Positively No-Pull harness, or other similar front- or side-clip harnesses.

### Clicker

A clicker or verbal marker is a way to communicate with your dog using positive reinforcement. It is used to teach or improve behaviours.

