

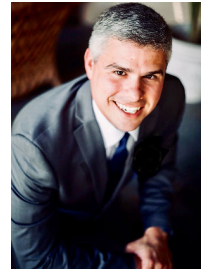


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Electronic Collar (E-Collar) Education

Over the past 15 years of being a professional dog behaviorist, I have learned and seen many things in the dog training world. I believe that positive reinforcement training fundamentally is the most effective and humane training method for dogs.

Along with positive reinforcement training I have also developed and embraced other training methods. One of these methods, is the implementation of an electronic collar. The electronic collar is often referred to as an e-collar. Along with the in-person training you will be getting with Claiborne Canine, I also want to provide the following education and instruction with using the e-collar.

The e-collar is absolutely ***NOT*** used to negatively inflict physical or mental abuse, trauma, injury or cause the dog to suffer. The e-collar is simply a mild static correction that helps teach your dog how to behave properly and maintain safety for everyone. I have applied the e-collar to myself and felt the static correction it provides. It is not comfortable, but it does ***NOT*** hurt or cause any injury.

Having said that, like everything else in the world, the e-collar can be misused and could potentially cause negative consequences to the dog. This can happen if the person using the e-collar does not properly use it in a responsible and safe manner.

This is where Claiborne Canine comes in and teaches you how to properly use an e-collar. The following information is both educational and instructive. Please ensure you read and understand the instructions.

1. We do ***NOT*** want the e-collar to be a negative association for the dog. We ***DO*** want the e-collar to be a positive association for the dog.
2. If the dog has a negative association with the e-collar, the following is what typically occurs. These are ***NOT*** good things—
 - A. The dog is “good” when the e-collar is on the dog, but “BAD” when the e-collar is ***NOT*** on the dog. You can see the problem with this. We will talk more about this in our in-person training sessions.
 - B. The dog sees the e-collar and gets scared of it, hides from you, and/or can exhibit anxiety when you try to put the e-collar on the dog. Again, these are ***NOT*** good things.

3. We want your dog to LOVE the e-collar and get really happy when it is presented to them either visually or when you go ahead and put it on the dog.
4. The e-collar itself is *NOT* a bad thing... it should be a positive and fun thing for the dog to see.
5. The e-collar does not actually “correct” the dog when they exhibit an unwanted behavior, even though it does give a static correction to the dog. The dog will understand that the actual correction comes when they exhibit an unwanted behavior. For example, if the dog jumps on the kitchen counter and a static correction is delivered to the dog, then the dog will associate jumping on the counter with a correction.

E-Collar Acclamation Process

Please take the time to complete the first e-collar interaction with you and your dog. This is called “acclamation”. This is actually very simple and easy. It is also ***EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.*** This is critical to the success of the e-collar training in both short and long term respect.

Here are the steps.

1. Show your dog the e-collar and praise the dog. This praise should include petting your dog, verbally praising your dog, giving your dog treats and pairing the e-collar with positive associations. We want the dog to love to see the e-collar and remember that it's FUN!
2. Continue to show the dog the e-collar and pair the prior positive reinforcement technique from Step 1 (praise, treats, etc.) for 1 week. This should be done multiple times everyday.
3. Put the e-collar on your dog but do NOT turn it on yet. You are NOT actually using the e-collar static correction yet. We are simply introducing the e-collar to your dog in a positive way.
4. Allow your dog to wear the e-collar for a few minutes. You should be praising the dog as was mentioned above in Step 1.
5. Do this over and over.
6. Let your dog wear the e-collar a longer length of time each day. Start with 30 seconds and then 2 minutes, then 5 minutes, 10, 30 minutes, up to a couple hours a day.
 - A. **Be sure to NEVER leave the collar on the dog unattended. This is to ensure the dog's safety.**

Thank you for reading through the E-Collar education. This is the first step in introducing the e-collar to your dog. If you have any questions or concerns about the e-collar, acclimation process, or the instructions I have provided, please contact me at (423)637-5787 or claibornecanine@gmail.com