

## Equipment & Supplies

All Clients



Equipment refers to the types of leashes, collars, rewards, and other miscellaneous tools that will be used to help teach your dog what you want them to know and manage your life together. Some equipment will be required, but there may be different versions to choose from to find a tool that works the best for you, while other equipment will be optional. I will tell you what piece of equipment to use for various lessons, and let you know a week in advance if there is new equipment needed for an upcoming lesson. If you have a question on any of these, just ask! If your condition limits the use of something on the Required list, let me know as soon as possible and we'll talk about possible adaptations.

### Required Equipment

- **4ft or 6ft Leash** – This will be your primary leash for training, walks, and public access work for assistance dogs. Leather or nylon is fine.
- **15ft Leash** – This will be used for distance training with commands including, but not limited to, Sit, Down, Come, Stand, and Heel. It will also be used for on-leash playtime.
- **50ft Leash** – This will need to be made out of paracord or another durable rope. I will show you how to make it. This will be used to proof commands at a distance, teaching select advanced commands, and extending playtime.
- **Collar Options: 1. Rope Slip Collar 2. Chain Slip Collar 3. Flat Martingale Collar** - Please pick one of these options. All of these are safe to use with your dog and will be used for the majority of lessons taught.
- **Flat Collar** – If you don't plan on using a slip style collar, you will need to buy a flat collar. This is different from the Flat Martingale. Flat collars give neutral/dead pressure on the dog's neck, a type of cue that will be essential for teaching your dog how to Stand or Stop. This won't be used on walks. This has a very specific place & purpose.
- **Car Harness or Travel Crate** – I am unwilling to spend the time and energy helping you teach your dog how to have a happy, balanced life with you if you don't place value on their personal safety in your vehicle. The exception to this will be if it directly interferes with an assistance dog's ability to do its job, if an assistance dog will be travelling on public transportation, or if you have a giant breed.
- **Crate or Ex-Pen** – Both are excellent spaces to give your dog their own place to be, a safe area to be at night or when you leave the house, and can be used in other training exercises or games. You can use either, both are even better if you have the house space.

- **Dog Blanket or Bed** – It's important to give the dog a spot in the house that is all theirs, and having multiples throughout the house helps them have that while staying close to you. This will be necessary for teaching the Place command, as well.
- **Surface the Dog Can Jump Onto, Into, or Underneath** – In Foundation Obedience, the commands Up, Off, and Stand will all be taught. In Advanced Obedience, Under, In, and Out are taught. So, it's important there is a surface that you can work with for these. Those lessons will offer more specific locations, but examples include, couch, bed, sturdy box, overturned bowl (small dogs), bench, training or grooming table, bathtub, laundry basket.
- **Retrieve Stick** – This is a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " – 1" diameter wooden dowel about 6-8" long. It will be necessary for the Fundamental Retrieve course. If you want it to have colors on it, I recommend starting with a stick that is blue or yellow.

### Suggested or Optional Equipment

- **30ft Leash** – This will need to be made out of paracord or by tying two 15ft leashes together. This will be needed for teaching a reliable Come and working on other commands from a distance, as well as extending on-leash playtime. If you'd like to use your 50ft leash instead, simply gather up the approximate difference.
- **Head-Halti/Gentle Leader** – This may be used on walks only, and for dogs in Advanced Obedience or further. It really shouldn't be used on untrained dogs as it would be easy for them to hurt themselves. It definitely shouldn't be used in training exercises.
- **Prong Collar** – When used properly, this can be an effective tool for communicating with your dog on walks without needing to use your hands very much. If you'd like to use this tool, we'll talk about it first to discuss safety, introducing it, using soft hands, and when it's a good tool to use. This is not a good collar to use when you are first starting out
- **E-Collar** – If you'd like to learn about how to use an e-collar safely and effectively, and would like to consider using it to supplement management of your dog's behavior, bring it up with me and we can discuss it more in depth.
- **Bark Collar** – This is up to you. It won't be a piece of equipment that I will suggest in any lessons, but I can certainly discuss it with you if it is something you think you may need to manage your dog's barking.
- **Treats & Toys** – Either can be excellent ways to reward your dog in a training session, but neither are required because every dog is different. If you like to use treats in training at the beginning, I do ask that in later lessons you wean off their usage to ensure your dog can perform without the promise of food.

- **Multiple Place Mats** – I will go into more detail in the Place lessons, but if you'd like to have a blanket or mat in most rooms of your house that your dog can be sent to, you will need this. Place doesn't have to be identical, though, giving you the leeway to use whatever you want. For example, in our house we use: *a blanket under a table in the training room, a dog bed in the main room, a box bed by my working space, a thick saddle blanket in the kitchen, and a thin saddle blanket that we keep in our vehicle for when we're on the go.*
- **Clicker** – I will not use a clicker; I prefer to use my voice to let the dog know he did something correctly. However, if you really want to use a clicker or it's easier/more reliable for you given your condition, that's fine. We'll talk about how to use correctly. Timing is still important.
- **Primo Pad** – Indestructible and pee-proof pad for your crate, comes with tie down straps
- **Treadmill** – If you'd like to supplement your dog's exercise regimen, one of the skills I offer as a part of basic/foundation obedience is learning how to use a treadmill. This is not a replacement for walks, but can be great for disabled owners, bad weather days, or days when you get super busy.
- **Binder** – All clients will be asked to keep a training record, and will be given various handouts to read. A binder is a great way to organize everything and keep all the information where you can easily look back over things. All training sheets will be provided and can be filled out electronically, but were originally designed to be printed out.
- **Harness** – This can be used for long leash playtime and select lessons. Y-harnesses are the friendliest to a dog's natural movements. Ones with a D ring on the dog's back are ideal.
- **Pack** – As your dog gets better at walking on a leash nicely, a pack with light weights in it can be a wonderful addition to walks to help your dog feel like they are doing a job, build up muscle strength, and tire them out more.
- **Hands-Free Leash** – Once your dog has completed their loose lead and heeling lessons, this can be a great option for disabled owners to use on walks.
- **Boots** – Soft, hard, or rubber; there will be an optional handout for teaching your dog to accept wearing boots if it's something you'd like to train. Boots are handy for mud, rain, rough terrain, ice melt protection, and heat protection.
- **Elements of Groundwork Course Equipment** – If you're interested in this course, I'll provide a list of equipment specific to that course.
- **Equipment Necessary for Specific Assistance Dog Tasks** – This depends on the task you're teaching, but can include equipment such as a pulling harness, door ropes, counter-balance assistance harness, dog cart, and more.

## Prohibited Equipment

- **No-Pull Harness** – These can be harmful to a dog’s natural movements, don’t really discourage pulling, and won’t be necessary since we will be teaching your dog how to behave properly on leash
- **Flexi-Leashes** – These are dangerous, encourage pulling, and are difficult to manage. There will be a very select few instances when I may suggest the use of a Flexi lead as a training tool, but never as a walking tool.

## Places to Buy

Certainly not all the possible places, but here are a few online stores to get you started...

Chewy	In the Company of Dogs	Ruffwear
PetSmart	K9 Ballistics	Outward Hound
Baxterboo	Leerburg	Kurgo

## Assistance Dog Specific Equipment – *Will depend on your needs*

- Go Bag with day to day and emergency supplies for your dog
- Light Switches
- Dog Cart & Appropriate Pulling Harness
- Mobility Harness
- Working Vest and/or Bandana
- Tug Ropes or Straps
- Door Guards
- Sturdy Yellow or Blue Targets
- Miscellaneous Safe Retrieve Objects for Learning
- Safety Vest for Off-Leash Excursions, Nature Walks, or Night Time Activities
- Different Coats for Weather
- SD Info Cards
- Muzzle – *For desensitization training only*

I’m happy to provide links to online stores where many of the items on this list can be purchased.