



Your Industry Experts

# Positive Response Dog Training



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## WHY USING A CHOKE OR PRONG COLLAR IS HARMFUL TO YOUR DOG

1. Choke or (check as they are known) chains add pressure to the throat and can collapse your dog's trachea. It is harmful and dangerous, not to mention the expensive vet bills.
2. The purpose of using a choke chain is to allow your dog to make the mistake i.e. Pull forward, then reef back the dog by choking it in a snapping action. This frightens and inflicts pain in your pet. Not a nice way to teach an animal what you want. This is called negative reinforcement training – training that has become old school and is fast becoming outdated.
3. Yanking on a dog's choke chain looks terrible and often you have to use a lot of force to get your dog back by your side. It looks cruel, is cruel and the general public do not like seeing cruelty. People are often reported for severe and harsh punishment training to the RSPCA and or the police.
4. Yanking/ pulling on your dog's leash causes your dog to associate that pain with you. This only serves to decrease the bond you might have with your dog. Positive Response dog training advocates reward based training to build a strong bond between you and your pet. If your dog is constantly punished by you, then your dog learns to fear you.
5. The pain you cause your dog by pulling on the lead whilst amongst other dogs or people only serves to teach your dog that both people and dogs hurt your dog. While you may not have intended this, you indirectly have caused a problem. This in turn leads to other unintended associated issues such as dog or people aggression.
6. Pulling on a dog's leash to force your dog to comply with your commands teaches your dog that he ONLY complies when the leash is yanked. This teaches your dog that once off leash he can IGNORE you as there is no yanking (we call this a second cue) for him to follow. Dogs trained in this manner are often aggressive, shut down and frightened.
7. Incorrectly and harshly used, choke chains can lead to blood vessel injury in the eyes or even pop dog's eyeballs out of their heads. This best protection against such injuries is to never allow your dog to wear a choke chain.
8. Thousands of dogs have died as the result of wearing choke chains. Unsupervised a dog can easily get the choke chain caught on a nail or other object and accidentally hang themselves. Choke chains are sold all over the world with no warning label as to the hazards



of using this type of equipment. Yet this is a dangerous tool. There is no sense in what the manufacture has done other than to make money out of the item.

9. Prong collars are nasty and painful. They are also illegal to buy yet they exist. Prong collars operate on the principle of pressure pushing the prongs in to your dog's neck. They pinch the dog's neck and tighten. They are a very barbaric looking piece of equipment. People using these really need to ask themselves why? Are they so lacking in understanding or is it just plain ignorance.

10. Electric shock collars again are illegal. They should not be used on a dog for any reason. Barking collars used are a quick fix for the lazy individual who won't spend the time to work with their dog. If you have a barking dog, YOU created the problem. Often dogs are left in backyards day and night, with no environmental enrichment, no walks, no company and nothing to do. Why do people expect their dogs to lie calmly around all day without going mad? As humans we are meant to be the smart ones. This is not being smart at all and proves we have a lot to answer for.

11. There are wonderful alternatives available to help your dog re-learn not to pull. It is simply not necessary to use a prong or choke chain. Gentle leaders, martingale collars and harnesses offer great alternatives. Read more on our website at [www.positiveresponse.net.au](http://www.positiveresponse.net.au) and contact us with any queries. As a behavioural trainer working with dogs for over 25 years, I have worked with both negative and positive reinforcement. Science over the last 15 odd years has shown us that there is no need to bully or be cruel to our animals to make them comply. Many of us started out using negative reinforcement training and became what is termed cross over trainers. Working with reward based training has proven over and over again just how effective it is. As a trainer it is my job to coach you the public in the most effective humane way to help you help your pets.



**Check Chains**



**Prong Collar**