

Buyers Guide to Essential Dog Training Accessories



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Regardless of who you are, if you are thinking about bringing a new puppy home, it is important that you are ready for the new family member. Yes, we refer to dogs as family members, because that's exactly what they are ...family members and they should be treated as such. Dogs are big responsibilities – they're not something you can just toss in a corner when you're no longer interested – this is a long-term commitment and with this commitment comes responsibilities, such as training, accessorizing, feeding, watering and exercising. Of all of the known issues pertaining to having a dog in your home, the issue of training is the biggest one for several dog owners.

Depending on the dog, some are easier to train than others. If you happen to get a puppy that is hard to train, don't walk away, because every dog can be taught – some just require more patience than others. Your dog may be ready for people and have a good temperament towards things in the neighborhood. Then, you may have a dog that barks uncontrollably, for no reason that you can see, causing your neighbors to get upset with you. Hence, the responsibility of training your dog to be well-behaved is nesting on the owner.

For those dog owners that still find themselves struggling for a successful training routine, there are numerous options, so you are not left out there in the cold. You could attend classes that are designed to help you while you're training your dog, or you could purchase dog training DVDs that will help you do it yourself. Many of the training courses will go over the basics of teaching your dog to listen to your commands, regardless of what the commands may be. They usually teach the basics that we are familiar with, such as heeling, sitting

Many of these training courses cover the basics of teaching your dog to heed your commands, no matter what that commands may be. They usually teach the basics that most people are familiar with, such as sitting, heeling, and to stop them from barking at everyone and everything. You may also learn the secrets to controlling your dog's aggressive behavior he has towards other dogs.

Doggy daycare centers are becoming a popular trend in this day and age. These are another way for you to get your dog the training he needs. When your dog is at the center, the dog will be assigned to trainers that constantly drill them on a daily basis with the basic commands. The trainers basically teach the same obedience methods like come, sit, and so on. Once the dog has mastered those commands, they will be introduced to more advanced training techniques.

Whatever route you do decide to take towards training your dog, the fact remains that it will take some time, patience and consistency in order to make your dog obey you and respond to your commands.

Whatever route you choose to take for your dog, there are various training accessories available that can make the dog training process easier on both you and your dog. These tools are designed in order to help your four-legged best friend understand exactly what is expected by his owner. In this guide “Buyers Guide to Essential Dog Training Accessories,” we will be taking a look at some of the popular dog training aids and accessories that are currently available.

Housebreaking Pads

Are you familiar with housebreaking pads? There are various different companies selling housebreaking pads and they come in handy for those that are having trouble potty training their dog. Housebreaking pads are a quick solution. These pads have been designed to save you from stress of having to clean up after the puppy has made an accident on the floor. The biggest advantage would be the fact that they help you keep your home odor-free, as puppies have a tendency to potty on the carpet.

The pads are available in a variety of sizes for different sizes of dogs. Depending on the brand you buy, many are good enough for multiple use. If you decide to buy some housebreaking training pads, make sure you consider the degree of absorbency of the brand you settle for, because some brands may be more absorbent than the others. You should also consider the number of pads in the pack.

First Aid Kit

A first aid kit may not exactly be a training accessory, but it is something that is needed when you have a dog in your home. During training sessions, running around the home, or hunting, your dog could get injured or pick up deadly germs. When you have a first aid kit at hand, you will be able to give them the treatment they need if an emergency arises before visiting the vet.

The first aid kit you choose should be Veterinarian approved and contain at least splinter removers, a pair of scissors, antibiotics, iodine, tweezers and some bandages. We have heard of numerous puppies losing their lives and legs due to incidents of treatable infections that were poorly managed.

Emergency Dog Survival Kit

While we’re talking about a first aid kit, an emergency dog survival kit also pops in our mind. As the name suggests, this is the kit you would use for your dogs during emergencies. Imagine you’re in the middle of a flood, or some type of natural disaster and you run out of food and you’re not able to go out to get a bag of dog food. An emergency dog survival kit should help you keep your pet comfortable until you are able to get the supplies you need. It has almost everything your dog needs in order to survive an emergency. The emergency dog survival kit should include water, food, bowls, collars, thermal blankets to keep the dog warm and so on. Some emergency

dog survival kits contain water purifiers that help prevent your dog from having to drink contaminated water.

Anti-Bark Dog Collar

Do you have a dog that barks on a continuous basis and you have done everything you can in order to try to figure out why he is barking? Perhaps he just likes the sound of his voice? Regardless, it may be bothering your neighbors, which isn't a good thing. With an anti-bark dog collar, you can effortlessly and painlessly teach your dog to stop barking.

There are a variety of different anti-bark dog collars currently on the market, but most of them basically serve the same purpose and operate based on the same principle. There's a neat citronella anti-bark dog collar on the market that really captured our attention - basically, the collar is attached to your dog's neck along with a battery-powered device – when the dog starts barking, the small device releases small amounts of a harmless substance. The release of this substance helps the dog know what its owner wants him to do. Take note that these collars aren't going to stop your dog from barking completely as it will still allow your dog to bark at low levels. The collars are small in size and won't interfere with the dog's daily activities and in due time, your dog will forget he even has it on.

Dog Toys

When you have a dog, you must understand that he loves to play. For this reason, your dog will need some toys that fit his personality. For example, if hunting is your thing, then you can easily find a toy on the market that is related to the game you hunt. Looking at the pet store the other day, we found ducks that when you push them, sound like they are quaking, as opposed to squeaking like the traditional dog toy. There's also toy pigs that oink when you push them and so on. A nice dog toy will come in handy to help your dog release that energy he has built up inside of him.

Thunder Shirt

We're not sure quite why, but many dogs are afraid of thunderstorms. At the slightest "boom" in the sky, our dog runs to the corner. As a pet owner, it is our responsibility to make sure our dog feels safe and secure in our home. Not too long ago, we came across a thunder shirt, which is used to help dogs with anxiety. The thunder shirt was designed to help dogs with their anxiety during a thunderstorm. When you put it on the dog, it has a calming effect. It works by putting pressure on an area of the dog's nervous system, which results in a soothing effect on the temperament of the dog.

The thunder shirt is made of durable, soft and comfortable fabric that you can wash without damaging it. It can also be adjusted in order to fit almost any size of dog. It may also come in handy on days like the fourth of July, when the neighborhood sky is being filled with fireworks.

In-Ground Pet Fencing System

If you don't have a fence at your home, you need something to keep your dog inside, otherwise you need to walk him on a leash as the road is a dangerous place for your dog. Have you ever considered an in-ground pet fencing system? With this device, your dog will never go out of bounds, as long as it is properly set up.

The in-ground pet fencing system delineates any boundary you define for your dog – it acts as a virtual fence that keeps your dog in the yard. You can set the boundaries and set certain areas in your home as boundaries for your dog. For example – you can set it so that your dog cannot get to the swimming pool, garbage, garden area, upstairs in your house and so on.

An electronic fencing system will save you money as you won't need an actual physical fence in order to keep your dog on your property. This would come in handy if you live on a large amount of land as fencing in your property would cost a pretty penny.

Clicker

Have you ever heard of the clicker? This is a dog training accessory you can use to mark desired behavior. Clickers are available in a variety of different styles and shapes, including handheld ones and then those type that have wrist straps. The other day, we found a set of leashes that had built-in clickers, which we felt was pretty cool. If you look on your mobile device, you may even be able to find a clicker app ...this day and age, it appears as if there's an app for everything, doesn't it? There's also clickers that are designed for training multiple dogs.

Since many people aren't exactly familiar with the clicker, we feel the need to give some tips.

Always follow a click with a treat – Immediately after you click the device, it needs to be followed with a treat, even if you accidentally clicked, even if you clicked on a behavior you would rather not strengthen. The click itself really doesn't mean anything to your dog, he probably doesn't even care about it, but he learns to pay attention to it because of the food. The food is what makes your dog stay motivated. Every click that isn't followed by food will weaken the clicker's reliability. The less reliable the clicker is, the less relevant it will be to your dog.

Don't Use it to Get the Dog's Attention – The clicker has one job and one job only – it is there to tell him that he has earned a treat. Think of the clicker as if it were an asterisk, not a remote. The clicker is for one thing – and that is to illuminate for your dog exactly what behavior he is doing that is earning him treats. People that are new to training their dog may notice that a click gets the dog's attention, and then they start using the clicker to get the dogs attention. If you follow the click with a treat, this works, but it always

ends up teaching the dog to do whatever he is doing at that time when you tried to get his attention.

Target Stick

What about a target stick, are you familiar with those? A target stick will come in handy for teaching basic behaviors, like walking gently on a leash, but it can also come in handy for those complex tricks, like bow or spin. Targets can vary from simple sticks to something fancier – some even come equipped with a built-in clicker. There's also ones that collapse for easy storage, which come in handy.

Treats

While writing a guide to essential dog training accessories, it would be wrong to leave out dog treats! Rewarding your dog for good deeds is a great way to keep them motivated and interesting. There are so many delicious treats for your dog or if you enjoy cooking, you could easily whip up a batch of your own treats suitable for dogs – look up “dog treat recipes” and you'll find some good ones. The treats should be small, about the size of a blueberry. Some treats come cut specifically for training, while you may break others apart prior to the training session. The treat preference will vary, depending on the taste of your individual canine, but in general, most dogs like meaty treats and cannot turn away from them.

Collar and Harness

Don't forget about the collar and harness. A flat collar can hold your dog's ID tag, which is important just in case he gets out, then you can clip a leash to the flat collar. A dog harness is a better option for most dogs, because it can prevent pulling it make it easier on you. If you have a dog that is hard to control while walking, then you may want to look into a no-pull collar (we do not recommend corrective collars for training).

A Long Training Leash

When it is time to teach your dog certain techniques, like long-distance stays and coming to you when you call his name, then you should use a long leash – this is a safer alternative than being off the leash. These type of leashes vary from 15 to 30 feet.

Barriers

Don't forget about pet crates, pen pens, pet gates and playpens – all of those can come in handy when you're trying to keep your dog in a certain area for situations like chewing management or housetraining. A barrier can help keep your dog away from areas like the front door or stairs.

Conclusion

So there you have it – those are the basic training accessories you need. If you plan on training the dog yourself, we personally believe that is a great idea, because training your own dogs makes for great bonding time!