



# Exploring 4-H at Home



Environment & Healthy  
Living

**Pillar:** Environment & Healthy Living

**Project:** Canine

**Activity:** Shopping Dogs!



CANADA  
4-H Saskatchewan

**Canine**

Reference and Activity  
Guide

## Basic Training Equipment

### Short Leash

A standard length of six feet is best to start your training with. You can get it in nylon or leather. This length will allow for a limited amount of freedom and yet provide you with control.

### Long Leash

The long leash can be used to train your dog the **come** command, and also the **sit-stay** and the **down-stay** commands. These lightweight leads, allow the handler the control of still having contact with the animal, while allowing the dog the opportunity to experience a bit of freedom to test his control.

### Collars

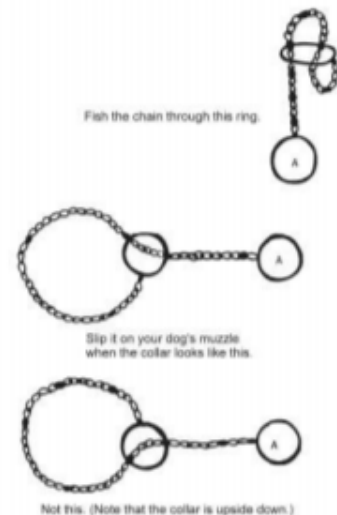
A collar is an essential tool for anyone that owns a dog. The collar will allow the handler to maintain control of his or her dog in public, and also provides a location for identification tags in case your dog is ever lost for any reason.

**There are several collars available on the market:**

- **Everyday Collar** – This is the collar that you will put your dog’s identification tags on. This collar should be fitted properly, with a buckle, and can be either nylon or leather. A flat collar will work for a short or medium haired dog; however a rolled collar should be used on a longhaired dog.

When sizing this type of collar, measure your dog’s neck and add five centimeters (two inches), the collar should fit so that two fingers can be placed snugly between the collar and the neck. For a small breed dog add only two and a half centimeters (one inch), and allow for one finger to be placed under the collar.

- **Chain Check Collar** – Also called the slip collar or “choke” chain. This collar can be used as a training collar, but should never be used as an everyday collar. The principle of this collar works on pressure-release. The moving part of the collar should always be over the dog’s head, this will cause the leash to tighten when pressure is applied and slacken the second pressure is released.



This collar is meant to slide over the dog's head therefore it will fit a little looser than an everyday collar will. To determine the correct size for your dog, measure the neck and then add up to seven and half centimeters (three inches) for a larger dog and about four centimeters (one and a half inches) for small breed dogs.

- Partial Slip Collars – This slip collar restricts the amount of “choking” action a handler can do, they will tighten but not like a full slip collar will. This type of collar would be useful to a handler that has a difficult time with the “release” action in the pressure and release method of training.
- Pinch or Prong Collars – While this collar can provide extra control it should only be used by or under the supervision of an experienced handler. This collar is most commonly used to control large dogs. While this collar is similar to the partial collar in that it will only tighten so far, it differs because it has blunt metal prongs evenly spaced along the inside of the collar, thus pressing into the neck of the dog.

## **Basic Training Equipment**

### **Short Leash**

### **Long Leash**

### **Collars**

- Everyday
- Chain Check Collar
- Partial Slip Collar
- Pinch or Prong Collar

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## Activity: Shopping Dogs!

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Using the information provided, and with a little bit of research, come up with an interesting Christmas gift for your dog.

Wow, every month for the past year you have put \$5 away to spend on the perfect Christmas gift for your four-legged friend. The time has come to research what you want to buy. You have a total of \$60.

First brainstorm a few ideas in this space:

Now that you have come up with a few ideas, it is time to start price checking these items. Using the Internet, magazines, catalogues and books or taking a trip to the store, find out what the prices are for your ideas.

Paste a picture or sketch a hand drawing of the item or service that you intend to buy for your dog. Explain why you think this is the perfect gift. How much of the \$60 do you have left?