

Equipment Policy

At Lifeline K9's, your dog's welfare, comfort, and emotional wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do. In line with our force-free, ethical training approach, we have clear guidelines about what equipment can and cannot be used during training and working.

Permitted Equipment

The following equipment is allowed during all training sessions:

- **Flat Collars** – A comfortable, well fitted flat collar may be used for identification and basic handling.
- **Fixed Leads** – A fixed (non-extending) lead is required for safety.
- **Non Restrictive Y-Front Harnesses** – These harnesses allow for natural movement and distribute pressure evenly across the dog's body.

Prohibited Equipment

To protect the physical and emotional safety of your dog, the following tools are not permitted under any circumstances. If clients have these on their dogs at training sessions the session will not go ahead and we may refuse to continue your future training.

- Slip Leads
- Choke Chains
- Figure-of-8 Leads or Head Collars
- Prong or Pinch Collars
- Electronic Collars (including shock, vibration, or citronella)
- Nose Bands or Head Halters (e.g. Halti, Gentle Leader)
- ¾ Check Collars
- Grot

These tools are excluded due to the pain, stress, physical injury, and negative behavioural side effects they cause.

Exception – Dogmatic Head Collar

In some cases, a **Dogmatic head collar** may be appropriate. If you feel this might be necessary for your dog, please speak to me directly. Use of this equipment must be **approved in advance** and your dog will need to be **carefully conditioned** to ensure comfort and a positive association.

Support and Guidance

If a client currently uses prohibited equipment, we will work collaboratively to transition the dog to approved alternatives in a supportive and non-judgmental manner. The goal is always to set you and your dog up for success in a safe, supportive environment.