



Potter's Angels Rescue

How to use a Gentle Leader Head Collar

The Gentle Leader head collar is a wonderful training tool that we highly recommend using for a number of behavioral issues. This is a pain-free training device providing effortless training for not just the “heel” command, but it is also a very effective tool in combating lunging, jumping, excessive barking and helping to calm an aggressive and/or anxious animal. This is our “go to” training tool for many training issues that dogs come to us with, but you need to make sure that when you use it you do so correctly. The Gentle Leader is a head collar with a nose strap that allows you to guide your dog by the head instead of by the body, as with a harness or standard collar. Because your dog can't use his body weight to pull against you, this makes corrections much easier for you. Keep in mind that the Gentle Leader is NOT a muzzle and dogs can still bite with one on.

- First we will provide you with step by step instructions on how to put it on and then how to properly correct a dog with it once you have it on.
- Open the snap on the neck portion of the Gentle Leader. Position the neck strap of the gentle leader as high on the neck as possible. It should be touching the base of the dog's skull right behind the ears, and the center ring should be under the dog's chin, above its Adam's apple.
- Tighten the neck strap so that you can barely slip a finger underneath it. The neck strap should be tight enough that it can't rotate, but not so tight that it impedes the dog's breathing or makes it uncomfortable.
- Once you have the neck strap adjusted to your dog's size, remove the neck strap from your dog to adjust the nose loop.
- Pull the nose loop up through the center ring. Slide the nose loop around your dog's nose, with the center ring still under his chin near the Adam's apple.
- Refasten the neck strap in its pre-fitted position.
- Slide the snap clamp on the nose loop up or down to adjust its size. It should fit behind the corners of the dog's mouth and be loose enough that it pulls forward to the beginning of the wet part of the nose easily, but can't be pulled or pawed off the end of the dog's nose.
- Clip a leash into the center control ring under the dog's chin.
- It can be really helpful to ‘double leash’ the dog. This means that in addition to the leash on the Gentle Leader to use another leash as one normally would to walk the dog (attached to a harness or collar). The benefit is a feeling of security that you still have the dog if s/he ‘slips’ the Gentle Leader. Keep this leash held very loosely so as not to interfere with the Gentle Leader lesson.

Be prepared when you initially use the head collar the dog may not appreciate the sudden loss of control that they have and may struggle to get it off. This is normal and to be expected as with the use of anything they are unfamiliar with. This will subside and you must remain calm when they struggle and slowly apply pressure by pulling upward. Never yank on the gentle leader to give a correction as this can cause a neck injury. This will take some getting used to for both the dog and the owner, but if you remain persistent and calm the dog will pick up on your confidence and give in within several minutes.

When you correct the dog with the gentle leader slowly pull up above their head to apply the pressure. Once they succumb or are relaxed, you too must relax the tension to show them this is what you want from them.

We at Potter's Angels Rescue, have seen the amazing accomplishments that are made possible with this device and are always happy to demonstrate the proper use of this tool if needed. If you are unsure that you are using it correctly, you can contact us to show you how to use it or you can simply google it on the web where there are video demonstrations available for viewing.