

PROPER E-COLLAR USE

The E-collar is not a teaching tool. This is one of the most common sentences we hear from professional dog trainers, as they advise new hunting dog owners to do their homework before taking their young dog into the field. Proper conditioning is a requirement for preparing any dog for wearing an e-collar. The dog should be taught obedience commands by hand reinforcement to correct. Moving commands such as "Heel", "Here, Come Here" or turning commands should be reinforced via a check-cord as they are taught. Only after a dog understands the commands they are given, an e-collar should be introduced very slowly. By using both check-cord and e-collar to reinforce the commands once learned, the dog becomes aware that the e-collar is just another check-cord.

Proper selection of a variable intensity e-collars allows the hunter to adjust the amount of stimulation to the needs of the individual dog. Having momentary and continuous stimulation allows a hunter to deal appropriately with different situations that may arise. After a dog is well-trained to hunting commands, a warning tone is often all that is required to make an effective correction.

A final piece of advice is to never use an e-collar if your dog is not in sight. An E-collar is not a locating device. If you want to locate a dog, buy an e-collar with a GPS tracker built into it in order to locate your dog. Hastings Island Hunting Preserve is a Garmin distributor. While many companies manufacture e-collar devices, we feel that the quality and overall price for Garmin products offers the best possible choice for upland game hunting.