**Cheat Sheet 2.3**

**Equipment**

I have a confession – don’t tell Mr Moggy, but I love shopping for doggie stuff! It’s undeniable – I have wasted a HUGE amount of money and excitement on gear. Bowls, toys, food and clothing – you name it, I have probably bought it! As such, I have a good idea now of what I like and why, and what is a fad/waste/not fit for purpose. So here is my shared wisdom that perhaps might save you a few pounds!

Where possible I have included links to products’ homepages just to ensure you are thinking of the right one, not an inferior copy, but by all means, SHOP AROUND and find the best deal – when you find a good one let me know! Also, I have stock of certain items in and can get most in, just ask!

HARNESSES

**Dogworthy – Because Every Dog Deserves His Day**

So as a rule I prefer to see a dog in a harness when it’s on lead – it negates the potential for neck injury on pulling, can encourage a “training mindset” in the dog, and as the owner of very strong Bull Breeds have a need for harnesses with ultimate ergonomic control. To this end, I recommend most harnesses with both a front and a rear clip. Essentially, when the front clip is used the dog just turns around when it pulls, and when used with a double ended lead the rear and front attachments can be balanced and prevent harness from twisting round. The brands I have very good experience of are:

* Ruffwear – the Front Range version. They are lovely quality, hardwearing – you can throw them into the washing machine after accidental fox poop incidents and they seem very comfortable for the dog. They are sadly not cheap but can definitely be bought much cheaper than the company sells them for. <http://www.ruffwear.co.uk/dog-gear/harnesses/front-range-harness-ss17>
* Trulove – these are a cheaper version to Ruffwear, same principle with an added “handle” at the rear. Good quality, but can be quite stiff at the beginning so not quite as comfy – I imagine they can rub dogs with less fur if not perfectly fitted: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Dogs/TrueLove-Free-Move-Harness-Multifunctional-Reflective-Stitching/B01CGMY45Q>
* A very similar one to above is named “Rabbitco.”
* Perfect Fit Harnesses – wonderful padded harnesses – very comfortable, good for wriggly dogs that may try to back out of other harnesses. Highly recommended: <https://www.dog-games-shop.co.uk/perfect-fit-fleece-dog-harness.html>

LEADS

Like most trainers, I am generally against the use of flexi-leads for a number of reasons, including injuries to hands from cable-burns, injuries to dogs from dropped handles, traumatised puppies who have found themselves being “chased” by a scary noisy handle retracting towards them when dropped. I have had personal experience of dogs running at roads in this circumstance. Also, more importantly, it can prevent the dog from learning a good solid recall, boundaries, personal space and loose lead walking.

So instead, I use double ended so called “police style” leads – at a length of 2 meters. This length is great for training loose lead walking, it gives the dog a choice of where to walk. Also it’s long enough to go round even my waist when I’m running! You won’t realise how useful double ended leads are until you have one! And the comfortable cushioned handles are fantastic. If you are going to use a long line I would highly recommend one of these fabric leads, at a length of perhaps 15m. I do stock these leads.

<https://www.pet-supermarket.co.uk/HALTI-Training-Lead/p/I0041068?_fp1=ppc&_fp2=759685406&_fp3=48485499348&_fp4=I0000794&gclid=CjwKEAiAxKrFBRDm25f60OegtwwSJABgEC-ZJSRhox6R9whDCOrnYXpQU1vBFSujIL97NSfZQZzBFhoCjgTw_wcB>

COLLARS

I recommend a flat collar of any style, I use a martingale collar on my dogs to prevent collars coming off in the house but they are walked on harnesses. I do not allow choke collars of any description in class. Obviously no prong, buzz, shock or other kinds of aversive collars are allowed either. Halti, Gencon or other types of headcollar may be applicable for a very small number of cases, but please speak to me first, training control must always the first option.

Coming soon – BOWLS, TOYS, and lots more!