

GETTING YOUR DOG TO LIKE HIS HEAD HALTER

Why a head halter?

A head halter is a humane anti-pull collar. It works by giving you leverage. The same principle is used for leading around large animals like horses.

A head halter, however, is not a training device. You can use it permanently or just while you train your dog not to pull; wearing the halter doesn't teach your dog not to pull, it simply prevents it.

Introducing the head halter.

To make your dog associate the halter with good things, get out the yummiest treats you can think of, and follow the steps below. The steps can be done in one session or over several, depending on your dog's comfort level.

Step 1. Reach through and treat.

- Hold the halter up by the nose loop with one hand so your dog notices it.
- Reach through the nose loop with your other hand to give your dog a treat.
- Repeat until your dog is asking for the treat by sticking his nose through the nose loop.
- From now on, every time your dog sees the halter, treat him. When the halter goes away, stop treating.

Step 2. Nose loop on and treat.

- Again, put the nose loop on, then treat, and remove the halter. But now begin to leave the nose loop on for a few seconds longer each time before you present the treat.
- When your dog is eagerly pushing his nose through the loop as soon as you present it, leave the loop on while you feed him several treats in quick succession.
- Slowly build the duration until your dog happily wears the loop for 5-10 seconds.

Step 3. Nose loop on, buckle and treat.

- Ask your dog to put his nose through the loop. Then hold one neck strap behind his neck so he feels a light pressure. Treat. Take off the halter, stop treating.
- Repeat this until your dog gets only one or two treats and is still comfortable.
- Now add the second strap. Don't close the buckle yet, just hold the two straps. Apply light pressure and treat. Remove the halter and stop treating.
- Repeat this until your dog gets only one or two treats and is still comfortable.
- Close the buckle and immediately offer a small avalanche of treats. Praise lavishly. Keep it short—after a few seconds remove the halter and stop treating.
- Repeat until your dog can comfortably wear the halter for 10 seconds.

Step 4: Wearing the head halter and treat.

- Put the head halter on your dog and immediately feed him his dinner. (Have his dinner ready beforehand.)
- When he is done, clip on the leash and immediately go for a lovely walk. Take some treats and treat him throughout the walk. (Have your shoes on and be ready to go.)