

Desensitization to New Training Gear

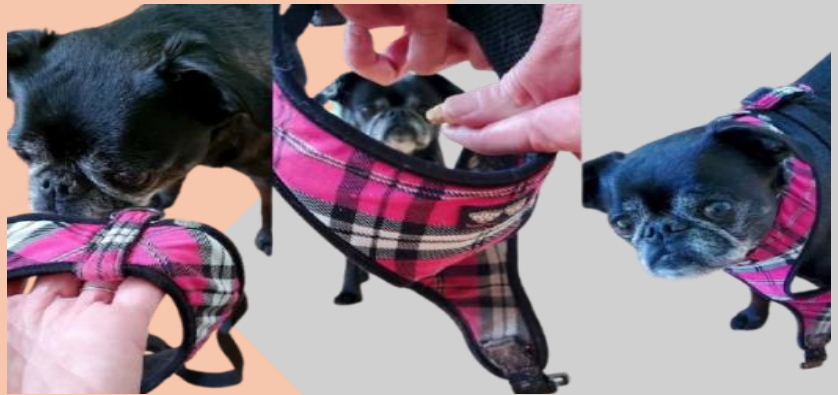


Teaching a dog to enjoy wearing training gear ensures that training sessions are as pleasurable and productive as possible. Some dogs will accept new gear with little or no objection, while others need to learn how to be comfortable wearing one.

Conditioning a Dog to New Gear

1. Start by showing a dog the gear. Do not put it on her currently. Give her small treats, praise, petting, or whatever she finds rewarding. Practice this light and positive exposure to the gear for at least two or three sessions. After that time, the dog should react positively when she sees the gear.
2. Once the dog is consistently acting positively when exposed to the gear (e.g., tail wagging, excited):
 - Put the first part of the gear on, without latching it around the dog.
 - Mark and reward.
 - Quickly remove the gear.
 - Repeat 3-5 times.

NOTE: Treat luring a dog through the gear might be necessary at first. For a dog who enjoys playing tug, you could lure her through the gear with a toy. Encourage a quick game of tug while holding the gear in place. Wearing the gear is a condition of playing the game. Repeat the acclimation process to the gear three times, a day for about a week.



3. Assuming the dog remains positive, attach the gear. Once the gear is on, mark and reward for her acceptance of it. Immediately remove the gear and repeat the process. Jackpot rewards the dog when she offers to wear the gear. Slowly increase the amount of time she wears the gear, from a short 5 seconds up to 30 seconds, 1 minute, etc.
4. After just a day or two, slowly get the dog used to wear the gear by increasing the time she wears it by 1 or 2 minutes per day.
5. After seven days of practice, start attaching a leash to the gear when the dog is wearing it. Let her drag the leash around and treat her during this process. After a week of this, you should be able to easily train the dog while she's wearing the gear.
6. Remember, you must create a direct association between the gear and fun, quality time. To facilitate this, you can try several things while she is wearing it, including:
 - Playing fetch
 - Taking her for a fun walk
 - Play with her using her favorite toys.
 - Give her special treats.

Important Note: Never leave any dog unattended in this or any other type of training collar.