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**Can't Get Motivational Correction With Pinch Collar**

**By Adam Katz**

Judy writes:

"I have a 6 month old Great Dane that I bought a pinch collar to stop bad habits (nipping, jumping up). This worked great for about one week but now it is very difficult to give a 'motivational' correction. It's almost like she's gotten used to the collar and doesn't respond to it anymore. This is especially the case when she is on the couch. Sometimes she bites at this time (not hard, but it's very annoying), and it is impossible to give her a 'motivational' correction. Any advice?"

Dear Judy:

Here's a blurb from an article I wrote on how to use the pinch collar:

**Basics of the Pinch Collar**

The pinch collar is designed to replicate the way the mother would correct her pups in a litter. Or similarly, how the Alpha dog in a pack would correct the subordinate dogs... that is, by giving a "nip" on the neck.

The prong collar (also frequently called the pinch collar) is made of a series of prongs that link together.

Most pinch collars are designed pretty much the same: There is a safety ring which rides next to the dog's neck and a "D" shaped ring that you hook your leash to. Some pinch collar manufacturers have developed "quick release" mechanisms which may work somewhat differently.

**A Safe Fit For the Pinch Collar:**

In order to properly size and fit the collar, you must do the following:

1. Understand that size and fit are two different issues. The size is determined by the SIZE of the prong... not the diameter. Sizes usually come in small, medium and large. For dogs up to 40 pounds, a

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small prong usually works best as you'll get more "pinch to the inch." Dogs 40 to 80 pounds will usually need a medium or sometimes a large size prong.

2. The fit of the collar is determined by adding or subtracting prongs to change the diameter. Simply break the collar open at one of the looser prongs in the middle of the collar and pop off one or more of the individual prongs.

3. Properly fitted, you should only be able to fit approximately 1/2 finger space between the tip of the prong and the skin of the dog's neck. Trust me, you won't be doing your dog any favor if it's too loose and you have to give 10 times the number of corrections and it's rubbing and chafing her neck because YOU weren't using it correctly. Make sure it's a snug fit... 1/2 finger space!!!

### Don't Teach Your Dog To Be Collar-Smart!

If you put the pinch collar on your dog immediately before training, she'll become COLLAR-SMART! She'll respond like a complete angel when the collar is on but like a real devil when the collar is off. So, just like the Alpha dog who always has the ability to correct the subordinate dogs (with her mouth)... so must you! In other words, leave the pinch collar and a tab (1 foot leash or longer) on your dog ANY TIME YOU'RE INTERACTING WITH HER. You'll know when she's proofed when you can call me up and bet me \$100 because you're so confident that your dog is responding with 100% reliability. If you take the pinch collar off sooner, you're running the risk of making her collar-smart!

Specific to answering your question, usually when people tell me this the culprit is one of the following reasons:

- The pinch collar is too loose, and they need to take another link out. In such cases, you should only be able to put 1/2 a finger space between the prong and the skin of the dog's neck. Sometimes even less.
- When giving the correction, the handler isn't using slack, but is instead mistakenly pulling the leash tight-to-tighter. It needs to be loose-to-tight-to-loose, in a sharp, snapping tug motion.
- If, after trying all of the above, you're currently using a medium sized prong collar, I'd suggest going up to the large. Or vice versa.

Sometimes a different sized prong works better on different dogs. However, this is usually a non-issue, as the culprit is HOW the collar is used (see above.)

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:

<http://www.dogproblems.com>

## **Dog Barks Continuously While Owners Eat**

**By Adam Katz**

Dear Mr. Katz,

I have a two year–old female Boxer named Amber and a six year–old female St. Bernard named Crystal. My question is regarding the Boxer, Amber. Whenever my husband and I sit down to eat dinner, watch TV, or when company comes over, she incessantly barks at us. She doesn't want to play with her toys and nothing can distract her from this barking. We try to correct her in a deep tone, but she only gets crazier; i.e.. jumping up, biting our clothes. From reading your book, it seems that she needs a motivational correction, such as her training collar. As of now, we do not leave it on her, except for when she is being walked. Should she be wearing the collar when we are home and she's in the house at all times? Can you please make any suggestions to correct this behavior so when we want to relax or have guests over, it's pleasant. She gets plenty of exercise and tons of attention. I'm not sure what to do. Thanks in advance!!

Christine

Dear Christine:

Remember the section on the pinch collar? And the emphasis I placed on how you will teach your dog to become, "collar–smart" if you only use the pinch collar during walks?

Remember the part about consistency and how the dog **MUST** receive a negative association with **ANY** unwanted behavior? And how just saying, "NO!" without attaching an association to the word will **NOT** produce any results? If not, please go back and re–read... it's in there!

"But Adam... the dog has since eaten the book! Please just give it to me, plain and simple!"

Okay... here it is: Your dog must be wearing the pinch collar and the tab **ANYTIME** you are with her. If you were a canine rather than a human you wouldn't need the pinch collar as you'd just go over to your dog and give her a nip on the neck.

Let's recap: When she barks you need to tell her, "No!" and then give a firm tug on the leash. If she continues to bark, then either:

– Your correction didn't have any meaning to her...

Or...

– She's testing to see if you're going to correct her for barking **THIS TIME** just like you did **LAST TIME**. If your correction is motivational then you'll only need to do this two or three times before the problem stops forever.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

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