

Beginning with the Pinch Collar

Using the method sponsored by the CBDC for training of a pointing breed is predicated on the ability of the handler to have his or her dog stand still. This statement while easy to make is in fact one of the more difficult things to achieve. Yet once the dog has mastered this simple maneuver the rest of the training is nothing more than a variant of this ability.

The first step is accomplished through the use of the Pinch Collar. We begin by attaching the Pinch Collar and Check Cord to the dog. The handler should insure that good contact will be made with the dog and that the Collar will release smoothly and quickly after each use. This procedure is much like what is taught in obedience work using a Chock Chain. One of the most common errors made by the handler is the distance between him and the dog. I like to keep the dog within five (5) to eight (8) feet of me when beginning. This allows me to easily slide my hand closer to the dog during the beginning maneuvers to maintain control. The conceptual basis for what we are doing maintains that in every step we are setting a stage or situation that affords the dog only two options the right one or the wrong one. Using this as a guide we begin leading the dog out into the training area seeking a spot that will afford us freedom of movement and view. Then by moving your hand closer down the Check Cord closer to the collar begin giving the dog a series of short, sharp tugs on the cord. We are not trying to stop the dog or impede its progress but rather irritate it until it comes to a stop naturally. Once the dog stops slide your hand down within an inch or two of the buckle on the Pinch Collar so that you can impede any movement to the right or left. Placing your other hand on the tail of the dog administer a short, sharp tug with the Pinch Collar and set the dog back an inch or two at the same time. Immediately begin stroking the dog and petting it to calm it down and show your pleasure that it is doing what you want. After repeated episodes of this you will find that the dog learns to stop on its own to the command (a tug on the Pinch Collar).

Once the dog stops and stands to the command you should begin giving the dog more room and begin backing your hand away from the collar. As you gain success with this begin incorporating new movements into the process. Begin walking in a semi circle about its hind quarters at first working to eventually being able to walk in a full circle about the dog at a distance of five (5) to six (6) feet from the animal. **ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT THE CORECTIONS ARE WHAT TRAIN THE DOG.** This caution means simply that as you incorporate the new move your dog will move or shuffle its feet. When ever that occurs apply the correction which is the sharp tug and set back.

Finally always remember that this is all new and confusing not only to you but to the dog. Therefore try not to make sudden and unnecessary movements. Many is the time I have seen the dog turn right or left at the command tug and the handler attempt to drag it back on course with the Check Cord with his hand several feet from the collar. Remember to think first and then do. Set the stage so that you have control. Move calmly with a plan. **PAY ATTENTION TO THE DOG** if you wish to visit and watch your neighbor leave the

dog at home. Next month we will talk about the use of the Electric Collar to replace the Pinch Collar for providing the Command to stop and stand.

The concept we use is that the collars give the Whoa command. Later it is an excellent idea to incorporate the verbal whoa command for obedience both in the field and at home. For field work this verbal command has proven to be inadequate for a multitude of reasons not the least being that your dog will be out of sight and must perform its task based solely on its training.