

# Correct Use of a Chain or Slip Collar

*Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff*

Surprisingly, a large number of dog owners who use chain collars on their dogs do not know the most effective way to use them. When placed properly and you put on the leash, the collar should tighten and immediately loosen, so only a simple correction is made.

## Steps for proper placement

- Sit your dog down in front of you, facing you.
- Push the chain through one of the O-rings at the end of the collar until the two "Os" meet.
- Hold collar in both hands so that it makes the letter P to you (as in "puppy").
- Slip the collar over your dog's head through the open part of the P.
- Attach the leash to the end ring that does not have the collar sliding through it.
- From the O-ring attached to the leash the chain links should run through the second O-ring, over the dog's neck, under his throat, and back to the second O-ring. You can tell if the collar is not placed correctly if the chain links come from under the dog's neck and through the second O-ring rather than through the O-ring and then over the neck.
- Try it out. When you give a short correction and the collar is placed properly, the chain should loosen right after you cease putting pressure on it.

When a chain or slip collar is not placed properly and you pull on the leash end, the collar does not loosen immediately. This means your dog is getting constant correction, even when he has done nothing wrong. The tightening of the collar becomes meaningless to him.