

So what is a Martingale collar?

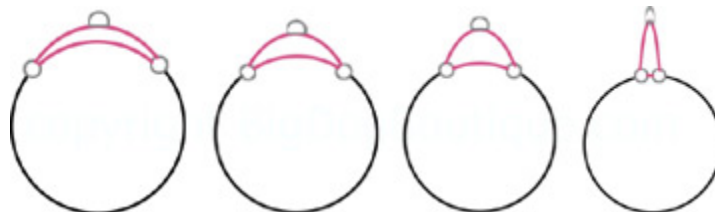
A [Martingale collar](#) is a special type of dog collar that helps a dog stay comfortable while being completely secure on their leash. They are gentle on the neck and offer gentle corrections that do not hurt the dogs in any way; therefore they are great training collars.

A properly adjusted Martingale collar does not choke or cut off the air-flow for the dog, as a result, these collars are also referred to as limited-slip collars or humane-choke collars. Martingale collars are also known as Greyhound Collars, as they were originally designed for sighthounds, because their necks are larger than their heads and they can often slip out of standard buckle collars. The Martingale collars have however gained popularity among other breed owners in the recent past, with many trainers now recommending them instead of traditional choke chains or choke collars.

How does a Martingale collar work?

A Martingale collar is made with two loops ... there is a large loop connected to a small loop. In the "relaxed" position, the resulting circle is easily placed over the dog's head and adjusted to fit loosely around their neck. The larger loop is adjusted so that when a leash is attached to the D-ring on the small loop and pulled, the small loop tightens up, making the large loop smaller and tighter on the neck ... but it does not choke the dog.

This means Martingale collars are fitted to the exact size of the dog's neck when the collar is pulled closed (i.e. small loop is taut). If fitted properly, when the smaller control loop is pulled, the 2 slides (hardware connecting small loop to the large one) should pull close together but should never touch. When adjusted correctly in this manner, the dog is never choked, but the collar stays snug around the dog's neck (just behind the ears) until the pressure is released.



This illustration shows how the two loops on a martingale collar work.

The problem with standard buckle collars is that for the collar to be tight enough that it can't slip over the ears when pulled, it must be uncomfortably tight all the time ... plus when on lead, if the dog pulls, the collar then puts pressure directly on the front of the throat (which leaves a gap between the neck and the collar on top). The Martingale collar allows the dog to wear a comfortably loose collar that is only tight when it needs to be.

N.B. It is not recommended to leave any collar on a dog at all times, however if a martingale collar is left on when the dog is not on lead, it **MUST** be adjusted so that it cannot choke the dog when the smaller loop is tightened.

What size Martingale collar do I need?

Take a measurement around the top of the dog's neck directly behind the ears ... this measurement corresponds directly with the Martingale collar size in the closed position - so it won't slip off your dog. Then simply identify which collar size range suits your dog's measurement best (if you are on the upper end of a small or medium size range, it is recommended you 'size up')