

Safe Collars in the Dog Park

Although your dog should always wear a collar in the dog park so you can quickly leash him if a problem occurs, there are several types of collars that should NEVER be used in a dog park. These are **pinch collars**, **choke collars** (training collar), **martingale collars**, and **spike collars**.



Pinch Collar



Choke (Training Collar)



Martingale Collars



Spike Collar

When dogs play together, they may grab at one another's neck. What starts as mutual play can quickly become a tragedy. Here's a report from another dog park that learned this lesson the hard way:

Two dogs were playing together when one of the dog's teeth got caught on a loose ring from the other dog's choke collar. The ring became embedded in the dog's gums - making it impossible to dislodge, and the choke collar was unable to be taken off. Finally, the dog was turned and twisted so that his mouth was released (causing serious damage to his gums), but it was too late. Sadly, the dog wearing the collar was already dead, despite the efforts of CPR.

The problem with the pinch collars, the choke collars, or the martingale collars is that you cannot get them off your dog quickly in an emergency. Unless you happen to carry a set of bolt cutters in your pocket, you could stand there and watch your dog suffocate. Don't take that chance!

The spike collar can cause a different problem. When a dog encounters a spike collar, his body, mouth, or neck could be injured, again turning mutual play in a painful injury.

The best collar for a dog park (or any play) is **flat with a quick release buckle or plastic snap closure**. (Traditional buckle collars can be hard to open in an emergency.) There are even special **break-away collars** that are designed to release for safety if caught, reducing the risk of your dog being strangled or injured. Regardless of what type of collar you normally use with your dog, make sure you have a safe collar for your dog to wear in the dog park.



BREAKAWAY COLLAR



Flat with Snap Closure