

The Professional Dog Trainer Equipment Checklist



Must-have and nice-to-have dog training gear based on recommendations from 31 working dog trainers. Read the full guide: [Equipment for Dog Training: A Professional Checklist](#).

Day-One Essentials

The core kit trainers reach for in nearly every session, perfect for beginners

- ☐ Standard 6-ft leash
- ☐ Long line (15 to 30 ft)
- ☐ Flat collar
- ☐ One motivator toy (tug or flirt pole)
- ☐ High-value treats (like soft treats or cheese)
- ☐ Treat pouch

Add As You Specialize

Gear to build in as your skills, business, and caseload grow

- ☐ Clicker
- ☐ Specialty collars (handled, wide, martingale, etc.)
- ☐ Muzzle (multiple sizes, for reactive cases)
- ☐ Harnesses (front and back clip)
- ☐ Containment gear (crates, pens, gates)

Easy To Forget Must-Haves

Practical items experienced trainers say they wish they'd used sooner

- ☐ Durable footwear or work boots
- ☐ Power washer (for boarding or daycare setups)
- ☐ Gear storage (car kit, carry bag, pocketed clothes)
- ☐ Client education packet or manual

Business & Admin Setup

Back-office tools that keep your business running

- ☐ Client intake and scheduling tool (like Cognito Forms, Acuity)
- ☐ Payment method (card reader or app, like Square)
- ☐ Session tracking system
- ☐ Service contract and intake forms
- ☐ Website, business email, and social presence