

**Martingale collars prevent dogs from slipping out of their collar while on leash. This guide covers how martingales work, when to use them and how to properly fit them to your dog.**

As with all collars, martingales should fit comfortably to ensure they won't choke your dog. If your dog pulls a lot while walking, a martingale will put excessive pressure on their neck and may cause injury, so we recommend using a harness instead.

*Caution: To prevent injury to your dog's neck, proper fit is important. Martingales should never be used to purposefully choke, harm or startle your dog.*

Pros	Cons
Prevents slipping out of collar	Can choke and harm dog's neck if improperly fit
Good option for dogs with heads smaller than their neck	Hardware can be hazardous if animal is left unsupervised

Like any collar left on a dog, martingales can become caught or tangled. To prevent injury, either remove martingales when you aren't supervising your dog or use a breakaway style collar instead.

## Martingale Design

Martingales are made of fabric or both fabric and a chain and come in different widths. Some martingales have buckles to undo the collar, while those without buckles require you to loosen the collar using the slider, before pulling it over your dog's head.

	All Fabric Non-Buckle		Fabric and Chain Non-Buckle
	All Fabric Buckled		Fabric and Chain Buckled

*Note: If your dog is easily startled by the sound the chain makes, chose a fabric martingale.*

*Tip: Regularly check for frayed fabric and monitor plastic buckles, to make sure they aren't cracked.*

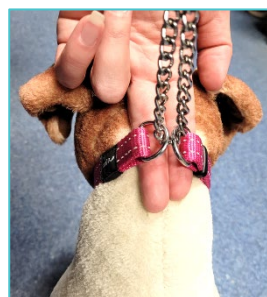
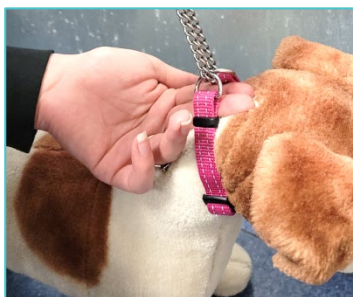
There are different styles of martingales, but their parts and how they work are the same. Below is a guide to the parts of a martingale collar:



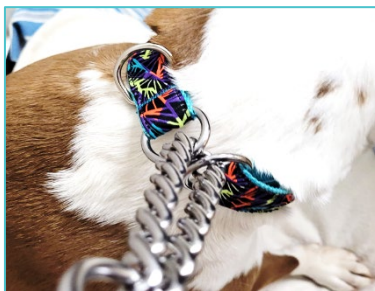
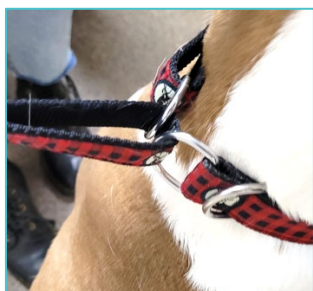
## How to Fit a Martingale Collar

Label	Name of Part	What Part Is For
<b>A</b>	Collar	The larger loop that goes around your dog's neck and is adjusted in size
<b>B</b>	Adjustable Slide	Where the collar size is adjusted
<b>C</b>	Tag Ring	Where ID tags are to be attached
<b>D</b>	Cinch Loop	The smaller loop that tightens when the leash is pulled, but does not choke your dog. This will have a D or O shaped metal ring where the leash attaches and can be fabric or metal
<b>E</b>	D or O ring	D or O shaped metal ring <u>where the leash attaches</u>

1. Adjust the martingale so the large loop is big enough to slip over your dog's head and put around your dog's neck.
2. Pull the collar up, right behind the ears of the dog. Behind the ears is the smallest part of their head, so this is the point where you want to adjust the collar to prevent them from slipping out. You should be able to easily slip 2 fingers under the collar.



*Check the fit: Bring the collar to right behind the ears, at the tightest point. When you pull up on the O-ring, the cinch loop should close and the two hardware pieces, at each side of the cinch loop, should touch.*



3. The martingale should sit around the middle of the neck when the control loop is not tightened by pulling.
4. To remove the collar, loosen the collar using the slider and use both hands to pull it over their head or if using a buckled martingale, unclip and remove. If your dog does not like having their head or ears touched use buckled martingale instead.

### Additional Resources:

For more guidance on selecting a dog collar or harness, check out our guide on: [Selecting Walking Gear](#) – or visit our behaviour resources page

For more information and free resources for pet guardians, visit: <https://www.edmontonhumanesociety.com/pet-resources/>

### Did You Know?

You can also ask us behaviour questions by emailing: [askthespecialist@edmontonhumanesociety.com](mailto:askthespecialist@edmontonhumanesociety.com)

It takes approximately \$7 million to keep the Edmonton Humane Society operational for one year and 40% of these funds come from generous donations made by supporters like you. Please consider