

Training Day Equipment Essentials For Your Dog

New chapter members often call and ask what they should bring along to training days. You don't need expensive gear, but a limited amount of basic equipment will make your training more effective. During a typical WRC Training Day, most handlers bring along the following equipment for their dog(s) and birds:

- **Collar with ID tags**
- **Leash** – you are responsible for keeping your dog under control at all times.
- **Tie-out or crate** – a way to contain your dog while you are not directly with him. Remember, in the warmer months, you will not be able to leave your dog in the car, unless you have containment that allows you to keep all the doors and windows open.
- **Bird cage** – this can be anything from a modified five gallon pail to a homemade cage to a commercial bird crate. A \$10 cat crate from Farm & Fleet works well. You need birds to train a bird dog, and a container to keep your birds in a humane manner.
- **Bird bag** to carry birds into the field ***is a must***. Anything from a pillowcase to a commercially made bird bag is fine.
- **Long check cord** – a rope will do nicely, but remember to wear gloves to prevent rope burns.
- **Drag string** for the duck drag is very handy, but often forgotten item.
- **Water bottles** for your dog. Carry water into the field for your dog. It not only cools them down in the heat, but it giving them water gives them a chance to settle down and regroup if running too hard or fast. Most handlers use old plastic water or soda bottles.



Remember to be courteous to others (dogs AND people) at training days:

- **Always** keep dogs leashed, in a crate, or on a tie-out.
- **Please** keep barking and whining to a minimum.
- **Pick up** after your dog around the shelter house.
- Be sure all **vaccinations** are current.
- Remember, your dog may be the friendliest pooch in town, but other dogs may not appreciate your dog. **Respect** others' space.