

## **Tools and Aversives Policy**

This policy aims to outlay our stance as an organisation as to what tools are permitted for use on assistance dogs whilst training and working within Canine Allies CIC.

## Our Ethos

Canine Allies CIC adheres to force-free training principles, therefore, we neither endorse nor condone the utilisation of aversive tools in the training of assistance dogs. Recognising that any tool, when misapplied, can become aversive, we strongly recommend that individuals pursue comprehensive training for both the dog and the handler prior to the introduction of any training aids.

## Acceptable Tools

We will work with teams who use the following equipment

- Flat collar
- Harnesses
- Slip leads
- Appropriately fitted martingale collars
- Figure 8 head collars
- Other head collars (dogmatic, halti, etc)

When these tools are used correctly, we realise they are effective training tools for assistance dogs, and their disabled handlers. As stated above please consult a trainer within the organisation if you are unsure of the tools or how to use them.

## **Unacceptable Tools**

We do not permit the use of the following equipment

E-collars/shock collars

- Prong/pinch collars
- Any other equipment designed to cause significant discomfort to the dog. Our trainers will be able to assess if a tool is being used in the correct manner, and whether this will fall into our aversives list.

If an assistance dog team has already joined Canine Allies CIC using these methods, our trainers are well equipped to assist the team in the transition away from them.