



**Collars in the Ring**  
**Dogs on Course in North America, LLC**  
**P.O Box 83238**  
**Phoenix, AZ, 85071-3238**  
<http://www.docna.com>

March 2, 2015 – Collars, **WITH APPROPRIATE ID**, will be permitted on the course only in the following circumstances:

- Outdoor trials – **Beginner Level classes only**
- Under special circumstances a handler not in Beginner events may approach the Judge to ask for permission to use an appropriate collar – Judge's discretion.

The purpose in allowing collars in the ring is designed to assist the handler in finding their dog should it escape or wander off from the agility trial.

For safety reasons, all competitors in Beginner events are encouraged to run their dogs without a collar. For those who choose to run with a collar, a quick release collar is suggested. Flat or rolled collars with a buckle or plastic release clasp made of fabric or leather are also acceptable designs.

It is mandatory that any collar worn in the ring have appropriate owner contact info (phone number at a minimum). Acceptable identification examples include an info plaque riveted flat against the collar or info stitched into the collar. It is also acceptable to use tag bags that contain license tags and owner information on a collar as long as it fits securely on the collar.

Collars without acceptable contact info will not be allowed in the ring. Collars with dangling tags, martingale type loops, haltis, gentle leaders, harnesses, and any electronic training devices (shock, bark, pinch, citronella, etc) will not be allowed in the ring. Any dog that runs with an unacceptable collar will be eliminated from the run.

Should a judge feel that a collar does not fall within DOCNA standards or is otherwise unsafe, they will have the authority to request that the exhibitor remove it from the dog or not run.

#### Infractions

- At no time should a collar be used as a training device at the start line, nor should the dog be dragged to the line by the collar, from the course, or back to an obstacle during training in the ring.
- At no time should a collar be purposely used to hold the dog's front feet up off the ground while entering or leaving the course or to lead a dog back to an obstacle during training in the ring.
- The handler's hand should be free and clear of the collar prior to starting the run.
- Competitors may not use a collar as a holding device, bowling the dog to start by holding the collar.
- In Triggility, once the dog is finished, you are welcome to hold this collar in a positive manner.

#### Faults and Elimination

- Any competitor that uses a collar in an unacceptable way will receive a minimum of 5 faults, but may also be eliminated from the run.
- At the judge's discretion, any competitor that uses a collar in an unacceptable way while training in the ring (after the run has been eliminated) may be eliminated for the rest of the day or the weekend depending on the severity of the infraction.
- Any dog that runs with an unacceptable collar will be eliminated from the run.