

## Equipment to take to Client Sessions

I have a box; not just any old box... a box full of some equipment and goodies to assist with the dog's training (I use a see-through box you can buy from a stationary shop or Ikea).

In some circumstances, a rucksack may be more suitable and remember you can also have a box or bag of equipment ready for your meet and greet for a pet sit or dog walking (if relevant). We will explore dog walking, dog grooming and other services in another resource.

- **Why take extra equipment or 'tools' to the consultation?**

Think of any good plumber; they wouldn't go to a job without the tools of their trade. Also, it is professional - not only do you look prepared, but you also have visual aids to work with. Explaining a Kong to the client is nowhere near as effective as having one to hand; showing how to put the 'good stuff' inside and watching their dog manipulating it. To you, it's obvious what a Kong is but, to some clients, the concept can seem completely alien.

- **What to pack, and should you always take it all?**

The equipment you may need for a puppy session, compared to a session with an anxious dog, can be quite different. So, depending on the session plan, it may be a better idea to take the most relevant items, rather than a huge selection. Also remember that bringing a large box/bag into the consult may spook a dog/trigger resource guarding. Ensure the dog is safely in another room when you arrive (we will talk about safety protocols another time. The list is endless but, to give you a start, here's some equipment I love to include:

1. **Food (remember to ask for the dog's preferences and allergies/intolerances)**

- Hot dog sausages (cut up in advance)
- Freeze-dried liver treats
- Cheese (grated/cut up/'squeezy cheese')

2. **Enrichment and toys**

- Kong
- Puzzle toy

- Snuffle Mat
- Tug toy
- Post it notes (check out 'the post it note game')
- Wooden spoon (great for targeting!)
- Sports cones
- Various textures and objects for free work (e.g. old carpet, towel, etc.)
- Toys (are particularly great for puppy sessions - in one session my squeaky pheasant toy kept the pup entertained for ages!)
- Rucksack (See Steve Mann 'Rucksack walk')
- Puzzle feeders

### 3. Main equipment

- Harness
- Collar
- Spare normal lead
- Double ended lead
- long line (one thick, one thin, a few different lengths)
- Puppy long line
- Muzzle (variety of sizes)
- Awareness leads/jackets (i.e. "anxious")
- Clicker
- Whistle
- Notepad & pen
- Diary
- Clipboard
- First aid kit
- Pop up bowls
- Poo bags

### 4. Other situations/extras

- iPad/tablet with various infographics, handouts, training aids etc stored
- Show and tell equipment you don't use – so can feel and hold it for themselves.
- In van – mats, small platform, raised bed

- In serious aggression cases (more sanctuary related) – bite proof gloves, slip lead (see PPN ethics on slip lead use), break stick, tugs for redirection, muzzles, mannequin arm/hand, head cone, catch pole
- Different treat bags to demonstrate (recommended Doggone, good one for belts)
- Small bucket with some 'toys' in to discuss 'the stress bucket
- Tiny bucket to start the Bucket Game

You may have many other tools to add to the list - perhaps even a small 'goody bag' you give to the client at the end of the session. As Ian Dunbar says: "Always have a good hello and a good, goodbye!" What better way to say goodbye than handing a 'goody bag' to your client?