

HOW TO MAKE A LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN DOG YOKE

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Yokes can be an important tool to correct unwanted behavior in livestock guardian dogs (LGD). A yoke is a device that goes around the dog's neck to prevent it from going under or through a fence. Yokes can be made from a variety of materials. When applied correctly, yokes can stop an LGD from wandering away from their charges by stopping them from escaping a fenced pasture. Yokes may stop your LGD from climbing over a fence, but a drag is a better option in this situation. It is important to ensure that your LGD can rest, eat, and drink with the yoke on.

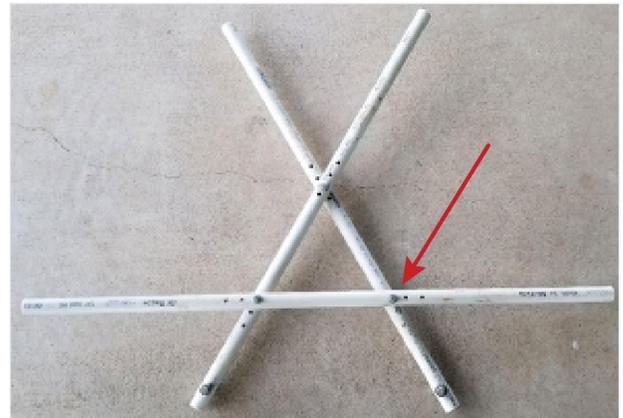
Materials and supplies needed:

- ▶ 1 - 3/4-inch schedule 40 PVC pipe, 8 feet long
- ▶ Electric drill
- ▶ 3 - 1/4-inch x 2 1/2-inch bolts
- ▶ 1/4-inch drill bit
- ▶ 6 - 1/4-inch washers
- ▶ Hacksaw or PVC cutter
- ▶ 3 - 1/4-inch lock nuts
- ▶ File or reamer
- ▶ 2 - 1/2-inch x 2 1/2-inch bolts
- ▶ 2 - 1/2-inch lock nuts

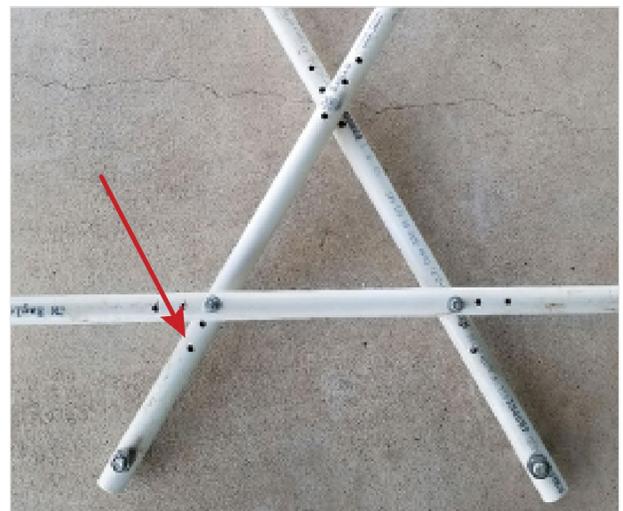
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Directions:

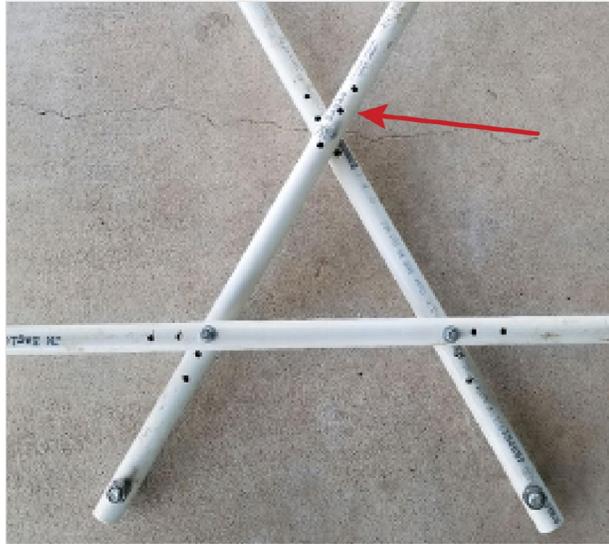
1. Using a hacksaw or PVC cutter, cut one 36-inch-long piece of PVC pipe. File or ream the edges smooth.
2. Using a hacksaw or PVC cutter, cut two 30-inch-long pieces of PVC pipe. File or ream the edges smooth.
3. Make sure all holes in the next three steps are straight, or you will have difficulties in assembling the yoke.
4. On the 36-inch piece of pipe, drill three 1/4-inch holes completely through the pipe, 1 inch apart, at 13, 14, and 15 inches from each end.



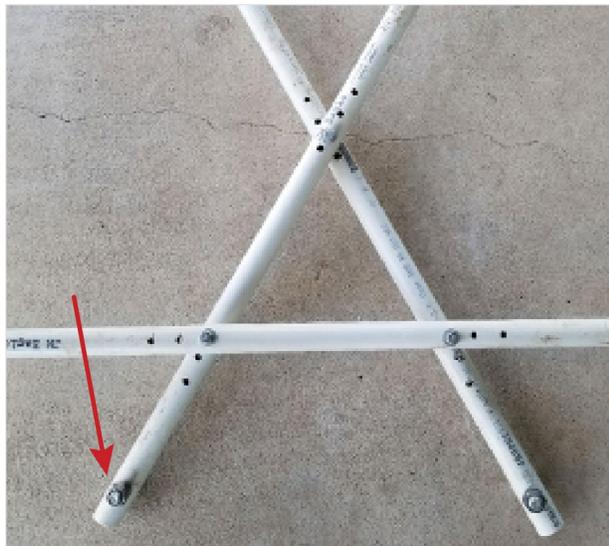
5. On one end of each 30-inch pipe, drill three 1/4-inch holes completely through the pipe, 1 inch apart, at 6, 7, and 8 inches.



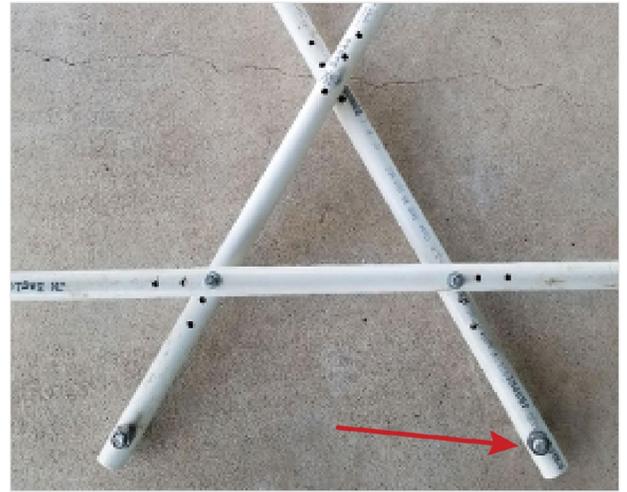
6. On the other end of each 30-inch pipe, drill three ¼-inch holes completely through the pipe, 1 inch apart, at 13, 14, and 15 inches.



7. The two 30-inch pieces of PVC pipe are weighted with a ½-inch × 2½-inch bolt with a lock nut.



8. Drill a ½-inch hole 2 inches up from the end of each of the 30-inch pieces of pipe that you drilled the holes in step 5. These bolts will be the counterweights to keep the short ends of the yoke downward. You may need to add additional small weights to keep the yoke sitting correctly. An old tire or fishing weights work well when placed inside the pipe.



9. Assemble the piece as shown in the picture above. It is important to use lock nuts for assembly so that the yoke does not come apart while on your dog. You may have to drill additional holes based on your dog's neck size.

Installation:

It is easiest to leave the bolt out of the top of the yoke (red circle) for installation onto your LGD so that the bottom corners will move. Once installed on your LGD, make sure the yoke is tight enough that the dog cannot pull it off, but loose enough that it will move around if needed. Also, make sure your LGDs can lay down, access feed, and drink water. If they cannot, you may have to trim the pipe or adjust your feed and water system to accommodate the yoke.

