

Training Your Dog With The Dogtra e-Fence



Dogtra Company

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Fitting the Collar to Your Dog

The collar should be fitted so that the stainless steel contact points press firmly against the dog's skin (see diagram 1). A loose fit can allow the collar to move around on the dog's neck and may cause irritation to the skin. If the collar is too loose, electrical contact will be inconsistent and your corrections will be inconsistent as well. Allow the dog to get used to the collar for some time before beginning training.

TRAINING GUIDE		
WEEK 1	Step 1 : Creating a Boundary / Intro. to Stimulation	Step 2 : Distraction w/Toy
WEEK 2	Step 3 : Distraction w/ Dog or Human	
WEEK 3	Step 4 : Reinforcement Training	
WEEK 4	Step 5 : Off-Leash Training	
WEEK 5		



Diagram 1

IMPORTANT! DO NOT leave the collar receiver on the dog for more than 8 hours a day. Leaving the collar/receiver on the dog for extended periods of time can cause skin irritation around the neck or at the site where the contact points make contact with the skin. Dogtra offers a 24-hour multi-contact pad as an accessory.

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The training schedule is only a general guideline based on 20-30 minute sessions held twice a day. Each dog has a unique temperament and will learn differently. Be sure your dog has mastered each step before moving on to the next and use plenty of praise along the way.

STEP 1 -- Week 1

Creating a Boundary with Visual Aids / Initial Experience with Stimulation on Leash

Place the activated collar/receiver on your leashed dog (6-20 foot leash or rope) in a safe area of the yard (see diagram 2). The yard should be flagged in roughly 10-foot increments to aid your dog in identifying the boundary of the e-fence.



Diagram 2

Walk your dog toward the e-fence boundary (see Diagram 3). Just before you reach the signal field, fall behind and allow your dog to continue into the signal field where he will feel the pager/vibration followed by light stimulation. When the dog feels the stimulation pull him quickly back to the safe area of the yard and reinforce his behavior with praise (see diagram 4). Use the minimum stimulation level necessary to get a response from your dog.



Diagram 3



Diagram 4

We want the dog to learn the negative effect of the stimulation when it gets near the boundary, and that he can stop the stimulation by returning to the safe area of the yard. Through repetition, the dog will learn the safe area of the yard is away from the flags, thus creating a boundary. Avoid pulling or calling your dog into the signal field.

IMPORTANT - The dog must understand that the way to get out of the stimulation is to return to the center of the yard. Through repetition the dog will learn the pager/vibration is the warning before the stimulation and that the dog is too close to the e-fence boundary.

Repeat this exercise in other locations of the yard over the next few days. When your dog retreats from the boundary without prompting and refuses to approach it, he is ready for the next step. Remember to keep the dog on leash. If using the e-fence for more than one dog, train each dog separately.

Finish each training session with plenty of playtime in the center of the yard (see diagram 5).



Diagram 5

STEP 2 -- Week 1

On-Leash Training / Introduction to a Distraction

Put the e-fence collar/receiver on your leashed dog with the unit activated. Your yard should remain flagged as the dog is still learning the boundaries.

Play in the safe area of the yard with the dog on leash for a short period. After a few minutes, introduce a distraction by throwing a ball or play toy beyond the line of the flagged area (see diagram 6).



Diagram 6

If the dog attempts to run through the flags towards the distraction, wait for your dog to respond to the stimulation and quickly reel him back to you by pulling on the rope, into the safe area of the yard (see diagram 7).



Diagram 7

Praise the dog when he returns to you in the safe area of the yard. Give the dog a few minutes of playtime and try the distraction training again. If the dog continues to run through the flagged area ignoring the pager/vibration warning and the stimulation after the distraction, you may want to consider increasing the signal field area and/or increasing the intensity level on the wall mount transmitter.

IMPORTANT - Increase the stimulation (1) level at a time, until you find a level that will discourage the dog from running through the e-fence after the ball. When the dog refuses to run through the flags after the ball or toy (10) consecutive times, in a variety of locations in the yard, proceed to the next step.

IMPORTANT - The dog must understand that the way to get out of the stimulation is to return to the center of the yard. Through repetition, the dog will learn that the pager/vibration is the warning before the stimulation and that he is too close to the e-fence boundary.

STEP 3 -- Week 2

On-Leash Distraction Training with Another Dog or Human Outside the E-fence.

Put the e-fence collar/receiver on your leashed dog with the unit activated. Your yard should remain flagged as the dog is still learning the boundaries. Play in the safe area of the yard with the dog on leash for a short period. After a few minutes, introduce a distraction such as another dog on a leash and/or a human outside the e-fence boundary (see diagram 8).

If your dog attempts to chase through the e-fence after the other dog/human, pull firmly on the leash/rope until the dog is back in the safe area of the yard (see diagram 9). The dog must learn the boundary, regardless of the distraction on the other side.



Diagram 8



Diagram 9

Repeat this situation again, using a variety of distractions, until your dog stops prior to activating the e-fence system. If the dog continues to run through the flagged area after the distraction you may want to consider increasing the signal field area and/or increasing the intensity level.

IMPORTANT - Increase the stimulation (1) level at a time, until you find a level that will discourage the dog from running through the e-fence, after the dog or human distraction. When the dog refuses to run through the flags (10) consecutive times, after the dog or human distraction in various locations of the yard, proceed to the next step.

STEP 4 - Week 3

Reinforcement Training

Follow the procedures in steps 2 and 3, but during the final step do not hold the end of the leash/rope. Drop the leash/rope on the ground and let it drag behind the dog. You can use the leash to retrieve your dog should he ignore the e-fence stimulation and get outside the boundary.

STEP 5 - Weeks 4-5

Off-Leash Training

When your dog ignores the distractions and does not attempt to run through the e-fence (10) consecutive times, he can now be left to run in the e-fence without a leash or rope attached as a safety net (see diagram 10).



Diagram 10

IMPORTANT - If your dog runs through the e-fence, take the dog back into the safe area immediately.
REMEMBER TO FIRST REMOVE THE COLLAR/RECEIVER BEFORE CROSSING BACK OVER THE E-FENCE OR SWITCH THE UNIT TO THE OFF POSITION ON THE TRANSMITTER!

Progressively increase the intensity level one level at a time, until your dog consistently ignores the temptation to run outside the e-fence during the off-leash distraction training.

Plastic Training Probes

Once your dog has completed the training process and consistently avoids the signal boundary, you can replace the stainless steel training probes with the plastic ones. Your dog will continue to receive the vibration as a warning, but will not get stimulation. In the event your dog runs through the signal field, replace the plastic probes with the steel contact points and repeat training steps 2 through 5.

E-fence Training Tips

To get the most effective results with your Dogtra e-Fence, keep these tips in mind:

The collar must be on relatively tight. The contact points should maintain consistent contact with the dog's skin without restricting breathing. You should be able to slide one finger under the collar/strap at the back of your dog's neck.

The proper level of stimulation to use is when your dog responds with a mild twitch of the neck, shoulder, head or ears. If your dog vocalizes after receiving stimulation, the level needs to be reduced slightly.

DO NOT leave the collar receiver on the dog for more than 8 hours a day. Leaving the collar/receiver on the dog for extended periods of time can cause skin irritation around the neck or at the site where the contact points make contact with the skin. Dogtra offers a 24-hour multi-contact pad as an accessory.

DO NOT use the collar on a dog that is under 6 months of age.

DO NOT use when the battery is low. A low battery will not activate the stimulation.

DO NOT have the collar on your dog while installing the fence.

Make sure the collar receiver is working properly before putting it on your dog.

The e-collar should only be used under the close supervision of the dog's owner.

Remove other metal collars from your dog when he is wearing the Dogtra e-collar receiver. Other metal collars may interfere with the stimulation.

Place the training flags around the perimeter about ten feet apart where the test lamp comes on. This will help teach your dog the e-fence boundaries.

Keep training sessions short and positive. Twenty to thirty minutes of training twice a day is recommended.

If training more than one dog, train each dog separately.

KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN



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