

Using Your Rechargeable Remote Training Collar

Before using your Rechargeable Remote Training Collar, please read the following cautions and guidelines:

1. Please check to make certain that the 4 Phillips head screws on the collar receiver are tightened securely to ensure that it will be fully waterproof if your pet goes swimming while wearing the collar. Also, ensure that the rubber cover is securely in place over the charging connector on the receiver when you put the collar on your dog..
2. Fully charge the transmitter and receiver before first use.
3. Fully familiarize yourself with the functions of the training collar by reading the printed manual included in the product's box and running through its functions before putting it on your dog.
4. Please DO NOT start with the collar in shock mode. The purpose of the training collar is to be able to command your dog's attention and give correction when needed, NOT to "punish" your dog. Most dogs will respond well using only the "vibration" and/or "beep" modes.
5. To set the proper intensity adjustment for your pet, start with the transmitter set to the lowest intensity setting. Place the collar on your dog and allow it to wander around in a fenced yard or on a 15 foot lead. Press the proper mode button (we recommend vibrate) at the lowest level, and slowly increase the level and press the mode button repeatedly until you have reached the point where your dog reacts to the pulse. Your dog's reaction might be manifest through looking up, shaking its head, etc. Your goal is to use a level high enough to get your dog's attention, but not so high as to scare or punish it. Once you have found the proper level use this level for training.
6. Because there are many places where you will wish to take your dog where it is required that your dog be on a leash, due to the leash laws in your community, we recommend that you use this electronic training collar only after doing initial obedience training on a leash. Your dog should know basic obedience commands and the response you expect while on lead. Once this initial on-lead training is mastered, then begin your off leash training with the electronic training collar.

To help transition to the off leash training, you can train using both a leash and the electronic collar at the same time. If you choose this second method, combine the corrections with the leash (as outlined in the training section below) with a pulse of the electronic collar.

7. Correcting Problem Behavior. Many users purchase an electronic collar to correct problem behavior such as constant barking, jumping on people, etc. Most of these problem behaviors will be eliminated simply by having a well disciplined dog as a result of following a sound training program as outlined below. If some of these problem behaviors persist, you can certainly use the collar to make the needed corrections.

Basic Dog Obedience Training

The training outlined in this brief training guide is meant to help you have a happy, healthy, attentive pet that you can trust to respond to your commands in any situation or environment. A well trained pet is one that will be safe around other pets or people; one who will come when called, or stay when needed. I have personally used these techniques to train several "shelter" dogs (some with aggressive tendencies) to become calm, loving, obedient pets that are "safe" to take into any environment.

Perhaps you have seen a mother dog carrying her pup in her mouth, holding it gently by the scruff of the neck. Often the puppy will simply allow its muscles to go limp as it submits to its mother. As a puppy grows, its mother will communicate her desires through body language, nudging with her snout and other communication. If the puppy needs correction, the mother may give a low growl or a nip on the back of the neck. This is the communication that your dog instinctively understands and responds to best.

EQUIPMENT

We want our training methods to build off of what your dog will understand best by emulating the same type of communication and correction that it has already learned from its mother. Your dog is a pack animal, and, rightly trained, will accept you as the leader of the pack and happily submit to your training. For initial on-leash training you will want to use a collar that will emulate a mother dog's method of correction. A metal chain collar (commonly called a "choke chain") is best suited for your initial on-leash training. For more stubborn dogs you may wish to use a "pinch" or "prong" collar. The electronic collar, also, emulates what a mother dog would do.



Choke Chain



Prong Collar

These collars best emulate the mother dog's method of correction by giving a squeeze or pinch on the dog's neck. This squeeze can be given with a single sharp motion to bring an immediate, short correction rather than a prolonged tugging or pulling on the leash and the dog's neck that can cause damage to the dog's windpipe.

A regular collar is fine for attaching an ID or rabies tag, but they are useless as a training collar and can actually damage the windpipe of your dog if it leans into the collar and pulls on the leash. Some people will use a harness because of the dog's coughing and wheezing while pulling against a regular collar. While this will avoid damaging the dog's windpipe, a harness just gives the dog more leverage for pulling its owner down the street! After all, harnesses were designed to enable draft animals to pull heavy cargo wagons.



Regular Leather Collar



Dog Harness

THE TRAINER

It is vitally important that you, the trainer, maintain a calm and steady demeanor. Do not shout commands, simply give commands in a consistent, calm, yet assertive voice. Also, do not repeatedly "beg" you dog to obey by using a pleading voice (or treats) trying to coax your dog to do what you want. This type of "training" teaches the dog that he/she is actually the one in control. It is best to give the command once and then, if the dog does not respond, physically show them what you expect (pull on the lead, place it in the desired position, etc.).

WALKING ON LEAD

Initial training should begin by getting you dog familiar with walking beside you on leash. You will find that using a long training lead of 10 – 15 feet will work best. Your goal is to have your dog walking beside you while maintaining a slack leash line. Start with the long training lead and training collar and begin to walk forward giving a tug on the lead and one voice command, such as "heel". (Please note that our goal here is not to teach the formal "heel" command, but to simply help you and your dog to enjoy a walk together.)

Avoid giving verbal cues and simply continue walking, giving corrections through the training lead and training collar only. If your dog ranges ahead, turn and go in the opposite direction. If it lags behind, simply give a sharp correction on the lead that causes a momentary squeeze on your dog's neck. (The amount of force needed for the correction will vary based upon your dog's temperament.) Very soon your dog will realize that it needs to pay attention to you.

Give lots of verbal praise and petting to your dog when it is doing what you want. (Do not use treats for obedience commands. They are okay for tricks, but your dog should not expect a treat for responding to a basic obedience command.) This first phase of training is the basis for all additional training. Your dog has now learned to give you its full attention while on the training collar and lead.

Work with your dog for 10 – 15 minutes at a time two to three times a day until this is mastered by you and your dog. Many will find that their dog will respond well in the first day.

NOTE: After your dog understands each of the various obedience commands, you can begin off-leash training by using the electronic collar you received with this training guide (or use the leash and electronic collar together). The electronic collar helps your dog realize that he/she must obey your commands even if you are not holding its leash. I use my electronic collar when I take my dog, Darby, to the dog park to be able to have control in this often hectic environment of dogs running and playing together. Even with Darby on the opposite side of the large area, all I have to do is give a single pulse in the vibrate mode and call to her in a normal voice to have her answer the “come” command. The pulse on the collar alerts her to the fact that I am giving a command and returns her attention to me.

DOWN and SIT COMMANDS

Once your dog has learned to pay attention and walk beside you on leash, it's time to move on to other basic obedience commands. When giving these commands use a hand gesture to go along with the verbal command. For the down command say “down” while pointing at the ground. At first you will have to show the dog what you want by giving the command (once) and then placing the dog in position. Once the dog is in the position you want, give praise. Keep the dog in position until you release the dog. (I release my dogs by saying “OK” and giving a single clap of my hands.)

For the sit command say “sit” and point your finger at the dog. Again, you will have to place the dog in the position you want at first. Remember to keep the dog in position until you give the release command. Also give praise when your dog responds.

Avoid repeating these commands over and over. Simply give the command once and either place the dog in position or give a correction on the training collar by pulling down for the “down” command or pulling up while pushing the dog's hindquarters down for the “sit” command.

THE STAY COMMAND

When beginning to teach the stay command, have your dog on the training collar and long training lead. Place your dog in a “down” or “sit” position while standing beside your dog (I recommend that you begin teaching the “stay” command from the “down” position.) Place your hand in front of your dog's face, palm toward your dog, and say “stay” while immediately walking away. It is important that you don't give the command and then wait before walking away. Your dog should learn that the command “stay” means that they will stay where they are while you go somewhere else.

If at first your dog gets up to follow you, simply say “no” and place the dog back where it started. It's OK to repeat the command and walk away again. Start out by moving about 6 feet away and then increase the distance until you are able to go out of sight around a corner and have your dog remain in position until you give your release command (“OK” or “Come”).

THE COME COMMAND

Teach your dog the “Come” command by putting your dog on the training collar with the long training lead. Place the dog in a “Sit” or “Down” position and walk to the end of the training lead. Give the single command “Come”, accompanied with a quick double clap of your hands, and begin to pull the dog toward you with the training lead.

Be sure to give praise and petting when the dog reaches you. Consistently repeat this training until your dog is coming when you call.

It is important that the dog associates the "Come" command with a positive experience. Avoid giving this, or any other command, with an angry voice. Keep your voice calm and even. Also avoid giving the "Come" command in order to then scold or punish your dog.

By necessity, I have placed these commands in a certain order in this training guide. However, you will want to begin training your dog to obey the "Come" command right from the very beginning. Just don't expect your dog to automatically understand "Come". Teaching your dog to "Come" in the proper manner, with the proper attitude and tone of voice, is important in having a pet that will come every time when you call. (As you move to off-leash training you can use the electronic collar to help your dog know that you still have control, even when it is not on the leash.)

While you will have concentrated training times each day, it is important that you incorporate the commands into your dog's daily routine. Above all, BE CONSISTENT! Have all members of your family use the same commands in the same way and your dog will be submissive and responsive to everyone in the home.

THE OFF COMMAND

Avoid confusing your dog! Don't use the same command for 2 different things. We allow our dogs to lie beside us on the couch. If we want them to get off the couch we use the "OFF" command rather than saying "get down". "Down" is a specific command, and "OFF" is another specific command with its own meaning. We also use "OFF" if the dog wants to jump up on us. Sometimes I will invite my dog, Darby, to place her front paws on me by patting my belly. When I finish petting her I will have her get down by saying "OFF". Be sure to keep these 2 commands separate and distinct to avoid confusing your dog.

THE WAIT COMMAND

When I first rescued Darby about 15 months ago, she was 15 months old, and while housebroken, she was untrained in just about every way. As I began her initial training on her first day at home, when taking her on-leash through our back door, she wanted to bolt through the door ahead of me. Because I was using a training collar I was able to correct her with a sharp tug on the lead and say "Wait". Very soon she realized that "Wait" means that she could not continue through the door until I gave the "OK" command.

Now we use the wait command in additional situations. When I would take Darby in the car she wanted to jump right in when I opened the door. I have her "Wait" until I arrange the beach towel on the back seat and then say "OK" to allow her in the car. To avoid being trampled by a dog when arriving back home, I use the "Wait" command to have her stay in place until after I have exited the car and then let her get out by saying "OK" or "come". Now, I hardly ever have to say "Wait" anymore, because she has learned to expect to wait.

THE WELL-TRAINED PET YOU CAN TRUST

Soon your dog will obey these commands simply by responding to your hand gestures. I can take my dog, Darby, to PetSmart, Lowes, or to pick up my mail at the UPS Store, and simply point at the floor (the "down" command), hold my palm toward her (the "stay" command), drop the leash, and she will stay in position while I take care of business. When I turn to her and say "OK" she will jump to her feet and come to my side. I pick up the leash and she walks by my side. It's really interesting to watch the looks on peoples' faces and hear their comments about what a "good dog" she is. It's also great at the checkout to not have a dog pulling on the leash! I can get out my wallet, swipe my card, enter my debit card code, put the card and wallet away knowing that Darby is patiently waiting in place for me to finish my business and pick up her leash.

This is the joy of having a properly trained dog, one that I can take with me in any situation. By the way, Darby does just as well in PetSmart with other dogs passing by, dragging their owners at the end of a leash! Any dog can be a "good" dog if it has a "good" owner that will take the time to train their dog with proper training methods. I hope that you can use these methods to have a well-trained pet that you can trust in any situation.

Please let us know the good results you have in training your pet. You can leave your product and/or training guide review on the site where you purchased the collar, or, email us at: info@premierebrandssales.com

DARBY



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