

BASIC TRAINING

MANUAL



BY CHARLIE JUNEY
WITH TIPS FROM TOM DOKKEN AND RICK SMITH

IMPORTANT

DO NOT USE YOUR COLLAR BEFORE READING THIS MANUAL. DOING SO COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS THAT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO TRAIN YOUR DOG. BESIDES, YOU NEED TO CHARGE THE COLLAR AND TRANSMITTER BEFORE FIRST USE. YOU CAN EASILY READ THIS MANUAL DURING THAT TIME.

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WELCOME



01-02



Few things are more rewarding than setting a performance goal for your dog and then accomplishing that goal as a team. In this manual I am going to lead you, step by step, to a successful result: An obedient dog that loves to work and be with you. There will be frustrating training sessions where everything does not go as planned, but as long as you keep your focus, you will reach your goal.

Let me emphasize right now that electronic training is safe. No harm will come to your dog if you follow the steps I set up for you. This program is built on more than 20 years of success with virtually every breed. Many people are concerned that e-training will cause their dog to dislike them or lose its happy and playful attitude. This will not happen if you follow two very important rules:

1. Follow the steps in the order I'm presenting them. Do not jump ahead.
2. Be careful about accepting outside coaching or information. There are many good professional trainers capable of training your dog, and they have their own programs, but their methods may not be compatible with this one. And many well-meaning but less-experienced folks will toss out information that may not be best for you or your dog.

When finished with this training, you and your dog should be able to comfortably face most any distraction while you maintain total control. We will start with very simple goals in our training sessions and move forward at a pace prescribed by your dog, not a timetable. Initially, you will learn to properly use a leash and then progress to verbal commands and obedience drills. Only after these skills have been mastered will you start using the e-collar. From there the lessons will become more challenging. No matter what phase of training

you're in, attitude should always be top of mind. This is one of the most important words I will mention. First, your attitude toward your dog should be very positive and direct without a lot of unnecessary chatter. Straightforward, one-word, simple commands will make your dog's job easier. As important as your attitude is, your dog's attitude is the one that requires the most attention. If your dog is walking around with head down and tail tucked, you need to back off and slow down. There will be a fair amount of mental pressure during this program. Most folks think of physical pressure during training but in reality, most of the pressure your dog feels will be mental. When this occurs, I will explain to you how to relieve that pressure and get the tail wagging again. A happy dog learns faster, so make sure both your and your dog's attitudes are positive.

OK, let's get started with turning this business of dog training into part of your daily routine.

LEARNING TO TRAIN



Every animal on the planet has an alpha or beta relationship with every other animal. We usually think of "beta" as submissive and beaten down, but in wild packs or herds, that is not the case. The beta dog in a pack of wild dogs is still quite happy and lives a good life. So your dog should live the comfortable life - while remaining in the beta position. Your dog will be quite happy being beta as long as you show the dog that beta is a good way to live. In dog terms, you are the "alpha," giving your dog everything it needs to survive. The essentials of food, shelter and, most importantly, companionship (the pack) are provided by you. For those things, your dog will work and be happy as long as you demonstrate that you will not submit to challenges.

To be sure, the beta dog will present regular challenges in hopes of gaining the alpha position. If the beta dog wins the challenge, there is a new leader of the pack, so do not give in. Some of the challenges are subtle. Those are the ones you must pay close attention to while

A TRAINING TIP FROM RICK SMITH / SETTING YOUR PUP UP FOR SUCCESS

Dogs develop behavioral patterns early in life. The sooner a dog recognizes you as being in charge, the less resistance it will give you, and this makes it easier for the dog to accept instructions.

Sometimes you may unknowingly give in to a dog's resistance, and that creates a problem later. For example, let's say you pick up your puppy. Well, puppies have a short attention span, so often after a few minutes the puppy starts squirming so you put it down. Your puppy just learned how to get its own way by resisting you. In effect, you taught your dog to resist you. To keep this from happening, next time your pup squirms, roll it over on its back and hold firmly. The pup will resist, but if you don't give in, eventually it will relax, and then you can set it down.

Another behavioral pattern that is good to establish early is to get your pup used to its crate. Dogs like enclosed areas, and if introduced early, a pup will consider the crate to be its den. The crate is where your pup sleeps. It is also the means to train your pup to do its business outside. A dog doesn't want to mess in its den, so using the crate you can "den break" a pup. And, a dog that is accepting of its time in a crate will be much easier to transport in the car or truck.

LEARNING TO TRAIN



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training. If you win the small battles, the big fights will be much easier to handle. Dogs see the world in black and white. To your dog, either you are in control or it is. There is no middle ground.

Dr. Ivan Petrovic Pavlov taught us a lot about canine behavior. Two of his most important points, conditioned responses and substitution, will be the cornerstones of your training program.

Conditioned responses to commands are mandatory for a properly trained dog. When you explain something one time to a person, he or she will understand it and quite often give a positive response when questioned on that topic. Canines are different in that they trust their instincts implicitly. Instincts have protected canines for thousands of years from wild animals and other threats, and those threats still live in their minds today. In your training program, you must totally condition the responses to the obedience commands to such a degree that your dog trusts you more than its own instincts. That is a tall order, and you must take it seriously or you will not have success. Simple repetition is the only way to properly condition a dog. Simple repetition to the tune of around 1,000 repetitions per command will do this nicely. That might seem like an undoable task but if you will train consistently, it will take only a short time.

Dr. Pavlov also taught us about substitution. This is where we use a stimulus to cause a response and then add another stimulus simultaneously until the second stimulus evokes the same response as the first. You might remember Dr. Pavlov's work with ringing the dinner bell as he was feeding his dog. It did not take long before simply ringing the dinner bell caused the dog to salivate. You will use this same practice in training your dog, beginning with a leash, progressing to words and then finishing with electrical stimulation. It may sound overwhelming right now but you will be successful and your dog will accept this without question if you follow the steps.

The intent of this program is to help you communicate with your dog. This communication is a two-way street. Dogs speak to us in their own language and we must be able to understand what they are saying if training is to be successful. You do not need to be a modern-day Dr. Dolittle; a few simple skills will cover your needs. We could spend a lot of time discussing how dogs communicate, and while that would be helpful, your main focus in listening to your dog will be to understand when your dog accepts what is offered. This acceptance



could be for reward (doing a good job) or correction (making repeated mistakes on a command that has been conditioned).

Your dog will tell you, "I got it boss!" by the simple action of swallowing. Again, that acceptance behavior is the same for praise and for correction. When you praise your dog (by stroking its shoulder) you will see the dog's swallow response. Your dog has spoken, saying: "I accept your praise." Continual stroking will not gain you anything. Conversely, it will decrease the effect of future strokes and lessen the sincerity. One of the hardest things you will face is knowing when your dog has received enough correction. Once again, you will understand this when your dog gives you the swallow response. No more correction is needed because the dog has accepted the correction and openly told the world by sticking its tongue out and swallowing. You probably are not sure this is true, so go ahead and stroke your dog on the shoulder and watch for the tongue to come out, followed by a swallow. It's that simple.

While we are on the subject of rewards, what is the best reward for a job well done by your dog? Many trainers use food treats and that method will give you some success. However, what position do you assume when you give your dog a treat? That you are beta. But you must always strive to maintain an alpha role if you are to keep your dog's mind straight. If your dog thinks you are always alpha and it gets all the good things it needs in life while being beta, why not accept this role and live the good life? This sounds like a great gig and that is what you want your dog to think. So, if you are not going to use a food treat, how do you reward your dog when training sessions are going well? There are two methods that will satisfy your dog's needs. First, if it is a retrieving breed, throw an uninhibited retrieve (fun bumper) for the dog, rewarding its chase instinct. If your dog has a strong chase instinct, what could be more satisfying? Or, you can simply stroke your dog

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I TRAIN MY DOG?

That depends on how well you want your dog to perform. If you desire a bulletproof, obedient dog, you will need to do two 10-minute sessions of focused work with your dog each day. Now, that does not sound so bad, does it? During those sessions, it will be all work and no play time. You will praise your dog and reward its positive responses but always maintain an alpha role. Some of the sessions may be shorter than 10 minutes and others may be longer because each session should be goal-oriented - and those goals must be realistic.

When you accomplish the desired goal for that day, stop and celebrate. Avoid the temptation of trying to meet tomorrow's goals along with today's goals just because you have some extra time. That can lead to failure. You always want to finish a session on a positive note so your dog will look forward to coming "back to work" tomorrow.

LEARNING TO TRAIN



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on the shoulder and watch for the swallow response. The latter method helps you maintain more control and will work for almost every dog. During both of these, you maintain your alpha role while rewarding your dog. Make sure you do not overdo the rewards or they will lose their effectiveness. Even ice cream tastes bad if you eat it all day long. Hand out your praise when your dog does well and do so only until it tells you, "I got it" with a swallow.



Your dog will likely exhibit some other behavior during training that you need to understand. All dogs attempt to displace themselves from training at one time or another by telling you: "Hold on, I'll get back to you and your commands in a minute." If you have children, this is easy to understand. When telling a child it is time to go to bed, most parents will get one of, if not all of the following responses: "I need a drink of water," or "Let me watch five more minutes of TV," or "I need to go to the bathroom." In all of these cases, the child is going to bed but on his or her terms. This sounds a lot like a dog that knows a command but is hesitant to do it. It tries to put off doing the command with a series of actions, and by doing so, challenges the alpha position. These displacement actions are subtle and overlooked by many trainers.

Displacement behavior takes five classic forms in canines. During a work session, yawning, sniffing the ground, head shaking, scratching and biting at itself are all methods a dog uses to tell you, "Hold on, let me do this first and then I'll get back to you." Let me emphasize, this is only during your work sessions. If you allow this to go unchecked, the alpha position is open for debate and future challenges are coming. Each time one of these actions occurs, immediately correct the dog (we'll get into that later) and repeat the command. Do not be fooled by your dog when these appear. It is not an accident but rather a planned and instinctive challenge.

During your training sessions, it is likely that your dog will be overwhelmed in spite of your best efforts to prevent this. Learn from this and watch your dog's body language. If you see this body language starting to appear in the future, back off and go do something fun. Due to improper usage, e-collar training has been associated with over-pressurization for many years. You do not want your dog's head or tail to be down for an extended period. There will be many times when your dog will be timid and show a lack of confidence in training. This is quite normal when the lessons are new and unconditioned. You were probably the same way when you went to your job for the first few days. Be patient with your dog and work through the uncertain times with an extra stroke on the shoulder and a kind word.

On the other hand, do not nag your dog with a lot of babble or too-soft corrections. This will quickly lead to a dog that turns you off and builds tolerance to any form of correction. Many folks want to use the lightest electronic correction possible, hoping they will not hurt their dog. That sounds polite and is a nice thought but may not accomplish anything. Use a level of correction (verbal, leash tug or electrical stimulation) that your dog responds to in a positive fashion (more on this later). Your dog will progress faster and be more reliable in the long run if you are direct and honest in your words and actions. This is accomplished by using a level of correction that causes the swallow response of acceptance while your dog remains focused on you.

Pressure will be a big part of your dog's life, not unlike ours. The volume of pressure and how it is handled will determine your dog's attitude. Therefore, when using corrections (verbal, leash tug or electronic), always use the minimum amount of pressure necessary to obtain the desired response. It is easy to go overboard when you have lost your focus and failed to control your emotions, but please do not go there. Your dog will not like you for it and you will not like yourself that night when you go to bed. Stay focused on your goal for the day and your dog's body language. Heavy correction may not make the problem go away any quicker than a few more repetitions. Take the conservative approach of stopping your dog's unwanted actions with the correction while your dog remains focused on you. Too much correction will cause your dog to lose that focus and too little correction will not stop the action. You will learn how to find that level of correction shortly but do not jump ahead. Like all good trainers, be patient.

A REMINDER ABOUT ATTITUDE

Earlier, I mentioned the attitude of you and your dog. Attitude needs to be addressed each training session. If your dog's attitude is not good, you need to reevaluate what is happening. Always ask yourself: 1) Are both of us happy in what we are doing? 2) Is my dog's tail wagging? Answer these questions each time you train and pay close attention to your dog's body language. Also, how are you feeling today? Was it a bad day at work? Did you sleep well last night? Is the IRS looking for you? If you do not feel good, take a break until you can present a positive attitude to your dog. Your dog will read your body language instantly and know if you are not up to training that day. If you are off your game a little, the challenge your dog presents for the alpha position is likely to be a little more earnest. In other words, don't be afraid to take a day off if you can not give your dog your best effort.

THE ELECTRNIC COLLAR



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INTRODUCING THE SPORTDOG BRAND® ELECTRONIC COLLAR



In the manual that came with your remote training system, you will find all the information you need to operate it. Please read this and know which button does what, how to turn it off, when the battery is fading and all the other essentials that pertain to this high-tech training system. You have purchased a well-tested and proven piece of equipment. Take good care of it and you will get many years of reliable service from it.

When you know how it all works, follow the instructions on how to turn your system on and let's get going. Place the receiver (collar) snugly around your dog's neck so that it stays in place directly behind your dog's ears. Pull the strap until it is tight, back off one hole in the strap and fasten the collar. You should be able to slip two fingers under the strap without any trouble if it is properly tightened. The collar should remain in place without your dog struggling to breathe. If the collar slides down your dog's neck or spins out of its original position, you need to tighten it. Both receiver probes must be in contact with your dog's skin or the unit will not function properly. Congratulations, you have done the hardest part of e-collar training: You had the courage to take control of your dog's actions.

Now comes another very important point. Each time you place the collar on your dog, do something fun. Throwing a ball or retrieving toy every time your dog wears the collar is a great way to make your dog think that the collar is a ticket to the amusement park. One of the quickest ways to have your dog think otherwise is to put the unit on and push a button. Make the collar your dog's uniform to do something enjoyable by always doing something your dog likes after attaching the collar. You should do this for the entire life of your dog and not just while training.

TRAINING YOUR DOG TO PERFORM THE OBEDIENCE COMMANDS



It is mandatory that you control your dog's actions during every training session. Initially, controlling your dog during obedience training sessions is accomplished in two ways: 1) the leash and 2) the tone of your voice. While on the leash, your dog does not have an opportunity to escape through the instinctive mechanisms all canines possess. Bolting, biting and quitting are no longer options. Your tone of voice will later take the place of

the leash. Later the e-collar will replace both and you will be able to put the leash away until you train your next dog.

A word about leashes: There are many types and styles available. I use my EZ Lead, which is based on the design of a "piggin' string." The advantages of this handy little rope are many. First, it is a leash and collar all in one. Second, although it works on the same principle as a pinch or choker collar, there is a major difference: The moment a dog gives, the EZ Lead releases its pressure, which rewards the dog for complying. No pinch or choker collar can respond as quickly. SportDOG pro Rick Smith uses the same kind of leash, called the Wonder Lead. Regardless of what it's called, the important point is that it provides that all-important instant reward when your dog complies with your command.

How can you give your dog a dose of bitter obedience and make it think it tastes like sugar? What does your dog gain out of being obedient that would encourage its acceptance of the commands? The answer to both of these questions is a positive reward. As I mentioned earlier, you should avoid using food treats as a reward. A dog that works for food treats is working for itself, and that mentality encourages it to challenge the alpha position. Your dog should always work for you because you are the most important relationship in its life, and pleasing you should be at the top of its priority list. The positive reward any dog appreciates most from a trainer is a thank you in the form of a loving shoulder

A TRAINING TIP FROM TOM DOKKEN / WHEN CAN I START USING MY E-COLLAR?

One of the most common obedience-training questions I hear is, "How old does my dog have to be for me to use the e-collar?"

Knowing when your dog is ready for e-collar training is important, but the determining factor really isn't about your dog's age. You've heard it before and now I'm going to say it again because it's so important: The e-collar is for reinforcing commands your dog knows. It should not be used to try to teach a dog something.

The better your dog responds to commands while on-leash, the better it will respond while wearing the e-collar. Before transitioning from the leash to the e-collar, your dog must be 100 percent responsive to all of its obedience commands.

Dogs learn at different rates, and if you try to start too early, you will have a disaster on your hands. I have seen 5-month-old dogs that were ready for the transition to e-collar training, but I've also introduced 7-year-old dogs to the e-collar. In fact, an older dog that has been performing commands for some time is probably easier to work with. This is one area where the line about "old dogs and new tricks" is not true.

TRAINING YOUR DOG



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stroke, affectionate eye contact and a sincere “good dog.” If your dog does not light up on any of those three, you need to reevaluate your relationship. Each command should be followed with a positive reward of some fashion when your dog follows your lead.

THE FIRST COMMAND: NO

The first command your dog will learn is “No.” Usually your dog will understand this command by the end of its first day with you. Your dog hears this command each time it is doing something wrong and it comprehends the command by the way you say it. Your dog may have been running around the house with your wife’s pantyhose in its mouth or chewing on your prized decoy when it hears that dreadful word. Intonation expresses your feelings to your dog in a language that is universal. The tone of your voice tells your dog that it is in trouble and through repetitive use, the word “No” comes to mean the same thing. Voila! Our first conditioned response! (Thank you, Dr. Pavlov.)

“No” means stop what you are doing immediately. Put yourself in your dog’s place when it hears this command and understands it. The dog is thinking it must quickly stop what it is doing. Your dog would gladly obey you, if it only knew what you desired. For this reason, when your dog does stop doing whatever it was that bothered you, you must give another command expressing what will please you. “No” is always followed with something that will make you happy. When you are happy, your dog will see it through your eyes, feel it by your touch and hear it in your tone. And, that is your dog’s positive reward. Even when it makes a mistake and is corrected by the word “No,” it receives a reward by following your next command. This is a simple and foolproof method.



THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMAND: HERE

“Here” is the most important command your dog will ever learn. It is an escape from almost any trouble. “Here” tells your dog to come to you immediately and without deviation. This command is very easy for your dog to learn if you will speak its language. Most dogs will make a beeline to any person who kneels down and opens up their arms. In this position you are using postural language to welcome your dog. While you are kneeling and your dog is running to you, add the verbal command “Here.” Shower your dog with positive verbal rewards while stroking its shoulder.

Let’s take a second again and discuss how much positive reward to give a dog when it follows your commands. Do you remember how your dog communicates to you that it understands and accepts your actions? When your dog swallows, it says, “I understand.” So, back off the positive rewards when your dog says it understands and accepts your thank you by swallowing. Continually stroking your dog’s shoulder and praising it will eventually lessen the sincerity of your reward and that could be a huge mistake. Training your dog to come to you with the “Here” command is done along with the postural position of kneeling and opening up your arms.

The leash (or lead) should be used in training your dog on the command “Here” as soon as it is comfortable with the leash. Give the command “Here” and apply a slight tug on the leash. Be sure to release the leash pressure the instant the dog starts coming toward you. Many people try to maintain leash pressure until the dog is at their side. While this works, it can be too much pressure and your dog does not get the reward of turning the pressure off while it is coming to you. If your dog hesitates or fails to come directly to you, give another tug with the lead and repeat “Here.”

A TRAINING TIP FROM RICK SMITH / THREE PROBLEMS YOU CAN AVOID

If you need another reason to make sure your dog is 100 percent reliable in responding to your obedience commands, let me give you something to think about. Any training issue you encounter during your dog’s life will trace back to one of three problems:

- 1) Your dog does not want to come to you;
- 2) Your dog does not want to go with you; or
- 3) Your dog will not stay still.

A dog that has been properly obedience-trained pays attention. Lack of attention is what you are seeing with a dog that comes when called most of the time – but not all of the time. And lack of attention is the reason your dog might be dragging you around on its leash instead of accompanying you on a leisurely walk. That dog is distracted and therefore wants to do anything except go along with you.

Those are just two of many examples of problems that could be avoided by going through a complete obedience program.

TRAINING YOUR DOG



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When your dog arrives at your side, stroke its shoulder until it gives you a swallow response. Your dog has learned what you want and now it is time to condition the response with repetition.

A POSITIONAL COMMAND: HEEL

"Heel" is a positional command that instructs your dog to assume a position beside your leg whether you are walking, standing, running or riding

a horse. People seek professional help in teaching their dog to heel properly more than for any other command. These folks always explain that their puppy is a great dog but it will not walk on its leash. This means the dog feels like it is alpha and should lead its owner where it pleases. Every dog will learn proper heel position on its first day of training with proper leash usage. Place the leash in its proper position behind your dog's ears and begin walking forward. If your dog attempts to lead you by moving ahead, simply change direction. The leash will tighten around its neck and it will follow your new direction. It is imperative that no leash pressure be present when your dog's head is beside your knee. It will learn this position is safe and causes no discomfort through repetition. Add the verbal command "Heel" after the dog assumes the correct position and repeat "Heel" each time its head is beside your knee.

We have discussed how to correct your dog if it attempts to lead you, but what should you do if it tries to lag behind or flop around like a fish instead of following your lead? Keep moving forward and allow the leash to do its job. The important point is for you not to stop moving. If you stop walking to check on your dog or coax it forward, the leash will relax and its pressure will stop. Your dog must learn that the only way the pressure around its neck will disappear is by assuming the correct "Heel" position. With repetition, this position will become a comfort zone.



ANOTHER POSITIONAL COMMAND: SIT

The next command to teach is "Sit." With this command, you tell your dog to sit and remain seated until it receives another command. The leash applies pressure to the underside of the dog's neck when you are training it to sit. You are now working on a different pressure point. Pull straight up on the lead with your right hand

and push down on your dog's butt with your left hand until its bottom hits the ground. Add a verbal "Sit" and release the pressure on the leash. Pressure from the leash can be omitted when your dog is consistently sitting on verbal commands. Later you will get into corrections and the steps you should follow to make things clear for your dog. Repeat the "Sit" drill until your dog is happily driving nails with its rear.

Have you ever seen a dog sit sideways? It flops down and comes to rest on one hip. This is a common occurrence for lazy dogs and needs to be corrected. Pull up on the leash until your dog sits in a proper fashion. It may become necessary to step forward if your dog will not align itself properly at first. Fight for the proper sit position now and you won't have to address this in the future when you are asking it to sit in the face of overwhelming distractions.

Now your dog has learned to come to you, walk comfortably beside you and sit on command. It must concentrate and use its brain as it learns these skills. Pay close attention to your dog's focus, making sure that the training sessions are not too long. Even though your dog's brain is a sponge at this point, it can become oversaturated and unable to receive any more constructive information.

A FOLLOW-UP TO "SIT": STAY

When you give your dog the sit command, you've told it to sit and remain seated until it receives another command. Many obedience programs no longer use the "Stay" command, believing it is redundant and

A TRAINING TIP FROM TOM DOKKEN / THE IMPORTANCE OF "BALANCED" OBEDIENCE TRAINING

I am willing to bet that most people use an e-collar to reinforce the recall or "Here" command more than any other obedience command. As a result, they often work on that command more than the others. But keep in mind that if you spend a lot of time on a single command, and then you try to command something else, your dog may respond with the action it is most comfortable with.

An example of this would be an upland hunting dog that will not get out and hunt in front of its owner because it has been drilled so much on "Here" that its owner's side has become the safe place to be.

You need a balanced, well-rounded obedience program. Even a dog that knows its commands may become confused if you spend too much time drilling on one action.

TRAINING YOUR DOG



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not necessary. However, it would be good for you to know how to condition for this command if your dog struggles with remaining sitting. To reinforce sitting, apply a light amount of upward leash pressure to its collar and command "Stay" as you start to move away and toward the end of the leash. Your dog will likely get up and try to move with you. If this occurs, stop it with "No," reseat the dog with "Sit" and repeat "Stay" with another upward tug on the leash. It should not take too many corrections before your dog figures this puzzle out. Should it continually refuse to stay, add increasing amounts of leash pressure and stronger "No" commands until it obeys. You may need to be more patient here than any other place. You have already conditioned your dog to move with you at heel as you move away and many dogs think this is what you want now instead of remaining seated. Correction for mistakes, rewards for positive responses, and repetition will quickly condition your dog to this command.

A DIRECTIONAL COMMAND: KENNEL

You will often require your dog to enter different areas and objects: airline crates, vehicles, buildings, boats, duck blinds and fenced areas are just a few examples. You will use the command "Kennel" to tell your dog to enter what is in front of it. Always use the command



"Sit" before you ask a dog to enter. If you give your dog a chance to sit and look into the area it is being asked to enter, it will be far more likely to perform this skill without a fight. By looking into this area, your dog can see that the boogie man is not waiting inside.

What should you do if your dog decides it does not want to enter? You know it will give to the pressure of a leash, so lead it into the proper area and command "Kennel." Once in the correct place, stroke pup on the shoulder until you see acceptance via the swallow response. Repeat this routine until you start to develop a conditioned response to your command. Some dogs fight this entry with a great deal of vigor. If your dog chooses this option, be sure to maintain leash pressure until you get the desired response. Once it understands that there is no danger in these areas, it will be glad to enter upon command.

Think about your individual training situation and see if you can create opportunities to work on the "Kennel" command. This can be accomplished by having an airline crate with you while doing your dog's obedience routine or working in an area close to the entrance of your home where the doorway becomes the area in which your dog is commanded to enter. Or, you could use your vehicle, and this will be very handy when you take your dog to other training areas.

A TRAINING TIP FROM TOM DOKKEN / DON'T CREATE A "COLLAR-WISE" DOG

Have you ever seen a dog that won't listen when it is not wearing its e-collar? That dog is what we call "collar-wise." The problem starts when a dog misbehaves and the owner responds by only then strapping on the e-collar. The dog quickly associates the e-collar with punishment and knows that consequences to misbehavior can only happen when that collar is around its neck.

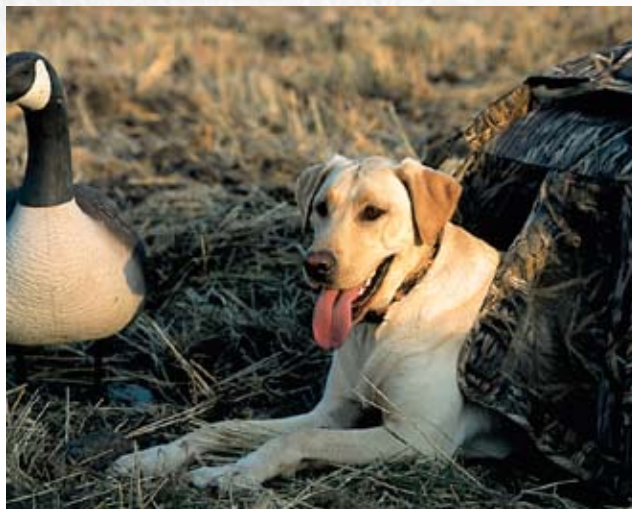
Luckily, the collar-wise problem is easy to avoid through "pre-conditioning." This simply means that you place the e-collar on your dog every time you go to do something that the dog associates with fun or freedom. This happens even before serious obedience training begins and long before you actually turn the e-collar on.

Because your dog will eventually associate the e-collar with being free and loose, it will never know the e-collar is the source of discipline.

TRAINING YOUR DOG



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A FINAL OBEDIENCE COMMAND: DOWN

The next command in your obedience program will be "Down," which tells your dog to lie down and remain in this position until it receives another command. This command is most often used around the home. For this reason, the easiest time to work on "Down" is at night while watching television. Command your dog to "Sit" and stroke its shoulder when it obeys. Face the dog, grab its front paws and pull them toward you. When your dog's chest hits the floor, command "Down" and stroke a shoulder again. Most dogs will immediately rise, assuming a sit position. If this occurs, correct your dog with "No" and repeat the "Down" process again. It generally takes around three evenings before your dog will become comfortable with this routine. But, do not be worried if it takes your dog three weeks.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now your dog has quite a vocabulary. You can stop its actions with the command "No." It will quickly come to you with "Here." Walking is simple because your dog knows "Heel." And it will sit and remain seated when you use "Sit." Entering a kennel or lying down are no longer problems either. It is time to combine several of these commands into a drill that will rapidly speed up the conditioning process.

The "Here"-"Heel"-"Sit" drill will condition these commands and communicate to your dog that you or anyone else who picks up the leash will be alpha. Start the drill by commanding your dog to "Sit," and repeat "Sit" as you walk away. When you reach the end of the

leash, call your dog to you with "Here." As your dog nears you, command "Heel" until it assumes the correct position. While your dog is heeling properly, finish the routine with the command "Sit." This simple drill will set the stage for all of your future training while establishing you as leader of the pack.

Proper handling of the leash is the key to success with this drill. When calling your dog with "Here," your left hand will slide down the leash until you are a few inches from the snap that fastens to its collar. Grasp the leash with a firm grip as your dog nears you and pull your left arm behind you in a sweeping motion, commanding "Heel." As it comes into the correct heel position, pull straight up on the lead with "Sit." Be sure to release the leash pressure when your dog's butt hits the floor. If your dog heels on the right, use your right arm. This drill is awkward at first but will become easy with a little practice.

After you have commanded "Sit" and walk away from your dog, you have the option of going forward or backward. Try to create balance by going in both directions an equal number of times. This drill should be performed in every direction until the conditioning process is well established. How do you know when this occurs? Your dog is well conditioned on the "Here"-"Heel"-"Sit" drill when you can command "Here" and it will "Heel" and "Sit" in the proper position without another command. This is called "chaining," where one command leads to another without any cues.

Chaining can take place because in all of your training, you are emphasizing conditioned responses that are the result of repetition. Some people believe once a dog learns how to perform a skill, it need not be repeated. Most professional trainers are of the opinion that all of your drill work becomes well conditioned only with thousands of repetitions. When you are told to repeat a drill at least a thousand times, you might envision it requiring years to finish. If you think about how many times you repeat a command during a drill, it is easy to understand that this volume of repetition can be accomplished quickly. But, it cannot be accomplished in a reasonable time without working your dog on a daily basis. After you have done a thousand repetitions, then it is time to do several thousand more. As Dr. Pavlov proved to us, there is no substitution for repetition.

A TRAINING TIP FROM RICK SMITH / SILENCE AND PATIENCE GO TOGETHER

Anger will never help you accomplish a training goal. Anytime you get angry, your dog is going to resist. Where does anger come from? First off, we're impatient. When we don't see the results we want immediately, we get frustrated. And then, when we see the dog's resistance, the anger sets in.

There is a way to deal with this, and that is to keep our mouths shut. When we are quiet we have more patience because we know we have to show the dog what we want. I believe so strongly in the importance of silence that we named the training system we teach in our seminars the "Silent Command" system.

I will use one example to show you how this concept works. When you pull on a leash and your dog responds, you release the pressure. You do this again and again. Pull ... release. Pull ... release. If you are quiet the whole time you are doing this, your dog makes the association between the pressure of the leash and the proper response. At that point it is easy to add a verbal command to the drill because your dog has made the association.

So, next time your commands aren't creating the response you want, and you feel your frustration increasing, before you do anything else, try silence.

UNDERSTANDING CORRECTION



17-18



UNDERSTANDING CORRECTION

We have spoken very little about correcting your dog for making a mistake up until this time. No dog is perfect and many mistakes are going to occur while training. In reality you want your dog to make mistakes so you can clearly show the difference between right and wrong. It is important that you have a correction method that your dog understands and comfortably accepts. Here is the correction system you should use from Day One. The same correction system will be used for the rest of your dog's life whether you are using a leash or e-collar to correct improper responses.

1. Give your dog a command. If it obeys, use a positive reward. If it fails to obey, proceed to Step 2.
2. Stop your dog's incorrect action with the command "No." Repeat the command after you get the incorrect actions stopped. If your dog obeys, use a positive reward. If it fails to obey, proceed to Step 3.
3. Stop your dog's incorrect action with the command "No" and use the physical pressure of your leash until the correct response occurs. Immediately release the pressure when your dog obeys, repeat the command and praise with a positive reward.

If you are consistent in this correction process, the verbal correction of "No" will become much more powerful. Your dog will learn through daily usage that if it does not follow your lead after the command "No," there will be some form of physical pressure (leash or electronic). Your dog does not like being corrected any more than you do. Correction will be a part of its life and it will accept this correction as long as you give it

in a comfortable and systematic fashion. This means you must be consistent and you cannot hurt your dog by hitting, kicking, overstimulating when you become frustrated.

Once your dog has learned the "Here"-"Heel"-"Sit" drill and understands the system of correction described before, anyone can pick up your leash and your dog will know that person is alpha. Each person in the household should take a turn doing obedience work with your dog. Not only does that make life comfortable for the entire family, it makes the world clear in your dog's eyes. It will assume the beta position with all of your family and not mind it one bit.

PRESENTING NEW TRAINING CHALLENGES

Most people confine their training to just a few areas, but this teaches a dog a bad concept: Obedience is required only in those areas. For this reason, you should rotate your training areas to anyplace that you and your dog will be going. The front yard, garage, great room, backyard, kitchen, bedroom and deck must all be used as training areas around the home. As your dog's ability to obey grows, you will be taking it to areas away from home and it must also be obedient in those places.

Training should also occur at random times during the day. If you have the opportunity to be around your dog throughout the day, never miss an opportunity to train. When you decide to go on a walk, take your dog along on your leash and do some drill work along the way. After the mailman has filled your box with catalogs, have your dog walk with you on leash to the mailbox. Practice some "Here"-"Heel"-"Sit" skills along the way. At suppertime, see how long your dog will sit in another room while you enjoy your meal. Take a few extra minutes on your trip to the grocery store so that you and your dog can sit outside while people walk by you. Think of the opportunities you have during your daily routine that could include your dog. Use these times to improve obedience and expand your dog's horizons.

In taking your dog to these new areas for training, you are presenting it with many new distractions. These challenges to conditioned responses are the final phase in the training process. You began with a learning process where you demonstrated what actions went along with certain commands. When your dog showed you that it had learned these commands, you proceeded to a conditioning phase with lots of repetition. Now it is time to see how well conditioned these responses truly are. You do this by bringing in any distractions

WATCH FOR DISPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR

Earlier I mentioned displacement behavior - the things your dog will do to avoid giving up its alpha position. Yawning, scratching, sniffing, head shaking and licking are all ways in which your dog will attempt to delay performing a command. Your dog may only try one or two of these tricks but most dogs will display at least three of these responses while training. Be prepared to correct your dog by way of the correction process if it should exhibit any displacement behavior. Avoid losing your temper by staying focused and having a plan when your dog tries one of these tricks. It will quickly recognize that you understand what it is saying and that you are prepared to meet the challenge.

Displacement behavior can be very subtle and is often overlooked by trainers. If allowed to continue, displacement behavior will soon lead to defiance, and that may not be quite so easy to correct. (cont. page 20)

PRESENTING NEW TRAINING CHALLENGES



19-20



that might catch your dog's eye. It seems like every dog will have one or two things in their life that they cannot resist. If you can identify these and successfully have your dog perform drills in the presence of these distractions then you are doing your job. Some things you can use for distractions include people, other dogs, birds, cats, children, vehicles, newspapers and bicycles. The list is endless.

Upon initial introduction, these distractions can become overwhelming. How do you communicate to your dog that it must remain attentive and under control at all times? You condition this into your dog by desensitizing it to these things. Find any object your dog is attracted to and walk it near this object on leash. Command "Sit" in front of the object and back away until you reach the end of the leash. If your dog attempts to go toward the distraction, tell it "No"-"Here" and use leash pressure when necessary. As your dog comes toward you finish the drill with "Heel"-"Sit" and a shoulder stroke. Gradually move closer to the distraction and repeat the drill until your dog is almost touching the bait. Don't expect your dog to accept this in one session. Be patient and allow it to accept this when it is ready. If you have done your homework and prepared for this

with good drill work on conditioned responses, it will not take very long.

The command "No" now takes on far greater power. Your dog has learned that when you say "No" it can no longer pursue an object. Coming to you provides security and the comfort of a shoulder stroke. This comfort zone you developed while your dog learned "Heel" has now become far more comfortable.

You have covered a lot of obedience so far and it must never be forgotten or overlooked. This training will go on for the duration of the dog's life, if only in small doses. The best hunt test and field trial dogs still get a dose of obedience each day at most kennels. Anytime your dog demonstrates that it is becoming loose in responses to your commands, do a little extra obedience. In short order, you reestablish the alpha role with a method that your dog is comfortable accepting.

All of your work to this point has been with a leash. How do you get your dog to be just as obedient off leash? Off-leash obedience cannot begin until your dog is 100 percent in its performance of the drills on leash. When this occurs, drop the leash from your hand and work on drills while your dog drags the leash. If necessary, you can quickly pick up the leash and reestablish control. This is where many people get in too big of a hurry. They feel like the dog knows what to do and therefore it should be reliable whether it is on the leash or not. Your dog's view is that the leash means control and without the leash it is on its own. So, let your dog drag the leash around for a week or two until it is bulletproof on its skills.

Your next step will be to take the leash off your dog and hold it in your hand. It is no longer on the dog, but it is in view. Spend as much time as necessary repeating drills until your dog is once again foolproof without the leash. Who cares if this takes an extra month of training? Never forget that no one is keeping score and you can only proceed when your dog is ready.

The final step prior to starting to use the e-collar is to place the leash in your back pocket. Now it is absent from your dog's view, which means reliance on conditioned responses, verbal correction and positive reward. Your dog is capable of squarely facing severe distractions in unfamiliar areas while still giving you control. Your dog is now a good citizen and a pleasure to live with. You have come a long way in training your dog but you still have some goals to reach.

WATCH FOR DISPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR

Bolting, or running away, needs to be addressed quickly. Keep a leash on your dog if it shows any signs of bolting so you can control its actions and prevent the flight mechanism from being rewarded. If your dog develops a bolting mentality, it is feeling far too much pressure and you need to re-evaluate your training program or your dog. It would be extremely surprising if the problem is with your dog. Bolting usually arises from a trainer attempting to go too far, too fast, too soon. Slow down the training process when a bolt occurs and look at what may have caused your dog to run off. If you can identify the cause, eliminate it from your training program.

Biting is the next form of defiance and is the most worrisome. While there are a few dogs that are truly mean and look to bite people, this is extremely rare. A dog will not bite unless it feels like there's nowhere to turn except by making you go away. (cont. page 22)

APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRONIC COLLAR



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APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRONIC COLLAR



E-collar use has come a long way. The equipment is better and the many available programs for training with e-collars are better. Some people don't believe e-collars are reliable enough and therefore they shouldn't be used, but successful results are dependent on the skills of the operator, not the product. It is very rare for a dog to not accept and happily work while on a leash, but you can hurt your dog's attitude if it is used improperly. It is the same with e-collars. You can do an unbelievable amount of damage to your dog's attitude by overcorrecting with an e-collar if you do not know what you are doing or if you don't control your actions. This program will show you how to use an e-collar, but you must never lose control of your emotions. So, make a promise to yourself and your dog that you will always remain focused and in control when training.

In the beginning, e-collars were simple metal boxes with an on/off switch and no way to adjust the stimulation levels. And they were often unreliable. SportDOG Brand® remote training systems are an example of how advanced e-training products have become. SportDOG offers several excellent models that work at great distances over land or in water. All of the units offer variable intensity on the transmitter along with continuous and momentary stimulation choices. In this program, you will use momentary stimulation most of the time, but there may be an occasion where your dog is heavily distracted and you need to use continuous stimulation. Therefore, that option is available to you.

THE RIGHT WAY TO BEGIN

Your dog needs to start wearing an e-collar as soon as it can comfortably support the collar's weight. The collar should be worn from that point forward during all training sessions. Initially, you should attach the collar and do something fun such as retrieving exercises with a bumper or ball. Continue this until your pup's tail is wagging uncontrollably. Soon, your dog will be doing airplane spins each time it sees the collar and think, "Oh boy, we are getting ready to have some fun!" That is a pretty nice first impression. This is an important first step in collar conditioning: your dog's acceptance of the e-collar in a fun fashion.

You shouldn't be pressing any of the remote transmitter's buttons until your dog is 100 percent reliable on obedience drills. When you have to deliver a correction you do not want your dog trying to guess what you expect. Your dog should be performing these skills masterfully in the face of distractions. If you did your homework, your dog will have an excellent understanding of what you are asking while being able to process pressure at the same time. Before, pressure was in the form of a leash. Now, it will be an electronic, momentary "nick" from the collar. Your dog already knows what to do in the face of pressure; you are simply changing the type of pressure. Previously the pressure of the leash was on your dog's neck and that is where the e-collar also applies pressure, but in a different form. The e-collar will now become an infinitely long leash to your dog. A nick with the collar will take the place of a tug on the lead. This sounds pretty simple doesn't it? Keep it that simple and you and your dog will be happy.

Always remember: You are not going to teach your dog anything with an e-collar. You are only adding electronic pressure to a skill your dog already knows and can routinely perform. Also, do not use the e-collar to correct responses in an area where your dog may have not performed these skills until the training process is finished.

WATCH FOR DISPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR

If your dog tries to bite you, get some help in the form of another opinion about your dog and your training program from a professional.

Quitting or lying down is the other major out-mechanism. The dog will quit trying to perform in an effort to get out of its job for three reasons. First, it has little drive or desire to please. This is usually the result of poor breeding or an absence of socialization during the first six months of its life. A dog may appear to quit in an effort to con you out of performing. It may lie on its side and throw the rear leg up in the air, assuming a submissive posture. Pay close attention to your dog's eyes if it pulls this stunt. If it is looking directly at you, your dog is playing the role of the con artist. The final reason a dog would quit is due to too much pressure from the trainer.

This dog has given up and is saying that it would rather lie down and take a beating than work in an effort to please its trainer. If your dog chooses to lie down during the training process, you need to pay close attention to yourself and how your dog is being trained.

APPLICATION OF THE ELECTRONIC COLLAR



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FINDING THE CORRECT STIMULATION LEVEL



The hardest thing about using an e-collar is finding the proper level of stimulation and sticking with it. Some folks are of the opinion that you should use continuous high-level stimulation until the dog complies. Others think you should use low-level continuous stimulation. Both programs can work and create a dog that performs great, but either of these methods could lead to trouble for a novice trainer.

Your long-term goal is to have your dog remain under total control while receiving correction from the e-collar and understand why the correction occurred. Remain under total control is the key phrase in that sentence. If your dog is jumping around or cannot focus on you because it is vocalizing, it is not under control. If your dog reacts in either of these ways, back off. Either you are progressing too fast or the stimulation intensity is too high.

You should shop for the correct level of stimulation by starting with the lowest intensity and continuing up until you see the acceptance mechanisms appear. This is first introduced during obedience drills. With your dog on-leash, call it to you. After a few successful "Here" routines, apply leash pressure and stimulate with the e-collar at the same time. Look for the swallow response, head drop or neck twitch. Sometimes you can see a change in the breathing pattern. Progress up in intensity until you see your dog say, "I accept" with one of these responses. When you see your dog drop its head or swallow, you are there and this will be your most-often used correction level.

COLLAR CONDITIONING WITHIN EACH OBEDIENCE COMMAND

Never correct your dog with the e-collar without first conditioning it to accept and understand the collar.

This will take a short period of time but without the conditioning process, your dog will be dazed and confused about the discomfort around its neck. It is easy to confuse your dog and undo a couple of months of good training in just a few minutes by over-stimulating on a correction or correcting when it is not justified. No corrections should occur until the conditioning process has been successfully completed. The collar-conditioning process can be thought of as practice in accepting electronic stimulation. Your football coach didn't send you on the field without practicing the plays and likewise, we do not want to send your dog into the world without an understanding of how to comfortably accept electronic correction.

"HERE"



Bolting can become a disastrous side-effect of e-collar conditioning if your dog is allowed to move away from your control. Therefore, keep using the leash until the conditioning process is finished. Toss a few bumpers and work on obedience drills in the training area. Check for that wagging tail that signals a good attitude. Then command "Here," deliver a nick on the correct level - paying close attention to the dog's reaction - and then immediately command "Here" again. Reward your dog with a stroke on the shoulder and verbal praise. Repeat "Here"-Nick-"Here" three to five times on the first day at various places in the work area while making sure that no two nicks occur at the same spot. Your dog will receive at least three nicks, but no more than five, during the first couple of sessions. If things are going well, you can go to five. But, if your dog is nervous, stop at three. Continue the obedience routine with no stimulation for a little longer. Make sure rewards follow proper responses. Finish by throwing a bumper or ball to each spot where your dog received stimulation in an effort to show that the location had nothing to do with why the correction occurred.

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Pay close attention to your dog's attitude during this routine. If momentum fades, use fewer nicks and more play time. Increase the reward by adding a few extra shoulder strokes along with a happy tone of voice. Don't be afraid to skip a day if your dog shows repeated signs of too much pressure. This is not likely to occur if you are careful, but understand how to overcome it just in case.

"SIT"

Next, it is time to condition your dog to sit and accept a correction while maintaining control in the seated position. Have your dog do a quick obedience drill and command "Sit." While the dog is seated, nick with the collar and immediately command "Sit" again. If it moves around or gets up, return the dog to the seated position by using the leash. Reward on the shoulder and verbally. Repeat the "Sit"-Nick-"Sit" three to five times per session. As before, move around so you do not stimulate your dog at any spot more than once. Use a positive reward after each successful nick.

"STAY"

When your dog is comfortably accepting e-collar pressure while remaining seated, you can start to use the e-collar for correction on the "Stay" command. After successfully seating your dog, command "Stay," deliver a nick and command "Stay" again. Watch for the acceptance response and do not move ahead until you get it. Call your dog to you and repeat the process several times without e-collar stimulation. Repeat the "Stay"-Nick-"Stay" at other locations and repeat this process until your dog is the picture of perfection, remaining seated even when distractions tempt it to get up and move.

"HEEL"

Your dog learned to heel beside you earlier in the program, and transferring this command to e-collar correction is simple. Walk your dog on-leash and change directions. As the leash tightens, command "Heel," nick with the collar and command "Heel" again. It is important to apply the nick at the same time the leash is tight instead of when the dog is coming to you. Reward with verbal praise and a stroke on the shoulder until you see the acceptance swallow. Repeat this routine as you walk together in various locations until your dog is comfortable.

Your dog is now conditioned to accept the e-collar while coming, heeling, or sitting on command. It is time to mix the commands into a full "Here"-Heel-"Sit" drill. Use your nick at varying times as your dog allows and as before, avoid successive nicks or multiple nicks in the same area. You can increase the number of nicks as long as you pay close attention to your dog's attitude. Toss a few bumpers to chase when necessary to relieve pressure and pour on the positive rewards as needed.

"DOWN"

Your dog understands the "Down" command and can perform it without any trouble by now if you did your homework. Now you can easily add the e-collar to this routine in the same fashion as before. Place your dog in the "Down" position with a verbal command. Command "Down" again, nick with the e-collar and repeat "Down." Watch how your dog reacts looking for the acceptance signals. Praise with a stroke on the shoulder and verbally. As before, you need to condition this with repetition.

What About Continuous Stimulation?



So far you have used nothing but the momentary button and nicks from the e-collar. There will likely be times when your dog requires continuous stimulation because its instincts are overriding your commands in spite of your best efforts. This usually occurs when your dog wants to chase something but you want it to remain under your control. If your dog takes off after the neighbor's cat and is running toward the street, its life is in danger and you need to intervene quickly. A strong "No"-Here may not be enough and even a "No"-Nick-Here may not get the desired response. In this case, "No" followed by continuous stimulation until your dog turns toward you and then "Here" should be used. You are now using direct pressure from the e-collar to make your dog do something whereas before you used the nick as indirect pressure to reinforce the command. In your initial work with direct pressure, it is imperative that you have your dog on a long leash to prevent bolting. Your dog's instincts are telling it to move away from the

DON'T OVERDO IT

Obedience can be overdone in some dogs. Those dogs become stale in their performance and have little energy when it comes time to play. They are trying to avoid correction and appear to be walking on eggs. If you see this in your dog, decrease the number and duration of obedience drills while spending extra time playing together. Strict obedience and a good attitude are two things that can be difficult to keep in balance. Too much work leads to a bad attitude, while too much playing leads to poor obedience. Juggle your obedience sessions and play times so that you keep your dog's life in balance.

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pressure and the direction it chooses may be away from you. If you have your dog on a leash, you can control its actions and show that coming to you makes the pressure go away.

There may be times when your dog is having a bad day and absolutely refuses to obey your commands. Leash pressure should be your first choice to correct misbehavior. If disobedience continues, you can apply direct continuous pressure with the e-collar until you get compliance. You can use this method for any commands. Give the command, apply continuous pressure until your dog performs the command, release the pressure and repeat the command. Make sure you praise your dog for doing the command even though you may feel like doing something else. The intensity level may need to be adjusted when you use continuous stimulation. Your dog may require less intensity on continuous stimulation than on momentary or it may be so distracted that you need to step up the intensity level to overcome the distraction. You will need to be very focused on your dog when you use continuous stimulation. This is an easy way to overwhelm your dog and you do not want that. Remember to always use the minimum amount of pressure necessary to obtain the desired response.

DEALING WITH BOLTING

Earlier I discussed an "out response" that your dog might use in an effort to escape your control. Bolting from electronic pressure is common from a dog that has not been properly conditioned or when you are using too intense a level of stimulation. In both cases, your dog is no longer trying to work with you. Its focus is on getting away from the heat instead of on what you want. If this happens, stop what you are doing and evaluate where both you and your dog are at in the program. Most bolting dogs will display this tendency early in their training, perhaps when they are small puppies. Being patient and going slowly will greatly decrease the chances of your dog choosing the bolt option.

However, your dog may choose to bolt no matter how well you prepare and, unfortunately, it must be "de-bolted." This involves a fair amount of electronic and mental pressure and requires a leash so you maintain total control. A bolting dog will attempt to go to a safe spot or sanctuary in an effort to escape the pressure. This may be the truck, kennel, woods, pond or neighbor's house.



The idea behind de-bolting is for your dog to feel more pressure at the spot where it wants to go than at the place you want it to be. Your dog will show you where it wants to hide, so let it go there. When it gets comfortable in that spot, attach the leash and call the dog out of the comfort zone with "Here." A tug on the leash may be necessary if it decides to fight. Stroke it on the shoulder, showing that coming to you is better than bolting away. Allow your dog to go back into its comfort zone and then call it out with "Here"-Nick-"Here" this time. Repeat this routine a few times until your dog is hesitant to go back into its comfort zone. Then command "Kennel" back into that area and call it out with "Here"-Nick-"Here." Repeat this sequence, mixing electronic stimulation one time, with no electrical pressure the next time, until your dog is moving freely away from its sanctuary.

Hopefully, you will not have to go through this at all. However, be prepared if your dog should choose this option. After it learns the process, de-bolting from any area or place should be a little easier. If continued bolting does occur, you have a problem in your training program and this problem needs to be evaluated by someone with plenty of experience. Whether you seek advice from a well-versed amateur or a professional trainer, do not be afraid to ask for help. It is amazing what another set of eyes will see while your attention is focused elsewhere.

You will likely find that your dog may require more than one level of stimulation in different situations. If the distraction in front of your dog is large enough, you will probably need to increase the level of stimulation. This is very common when you move away from the training

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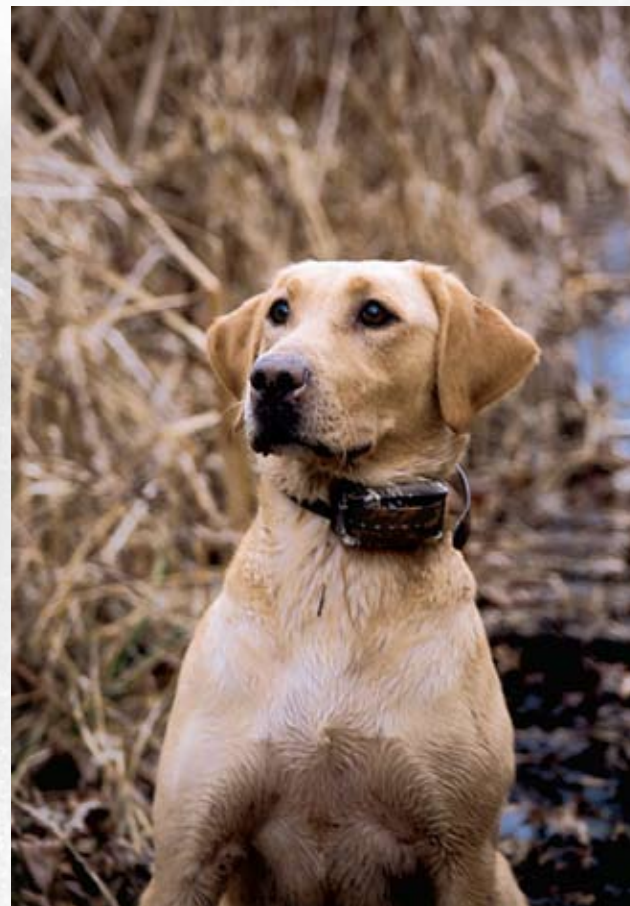
areas around your home and start using the e-collar in new areas. Your dog may have been a textbook case of perfection in yard drills but acts as if the collar is turned off when you stimulate in new locations.

It is not uncommon for a dog to adjust its tolerance of the e-collar to the distraction. If your dog is comfortable on a level 3 in the yard, it would not surprise me if a level 4 or 5 were required to stop a deer chase. This is one reason you have variable intensity levels accessible via the transmitter instead of on the collar. Do not let your dog's stimulation level be etched in stone. Instead, pay attention to how motivated it becomes with each distraction and most importantly to how your dog accepts the new level of stimulation.

This material has scrambled a lot of people's brains in the past because they went too fast or skipped steps along the way. Nothing you have learned is difficult for a knowledgeable trainer to understand. Likewise, it is easy for your dog to understand and accept as long as you proceed in an orderly and comfortable pace. So, take your time and have a little fun along the way. Keep your dog's tail wagging with plenty of rewards. You will find the excitement your dog displays upon seeing the collar is contagious. If you use positive rewards when your dog does well, then both of you will look forward to training with an e-collar.

Keep That Collar On!

At some time, you will get to a point where you feel like your dog no longer needs to wear the e-collar because it never makes a mistake. Congratulations on a job well done! However, your dog should always wear the e-collar when in environments that contain distractions. Would you drive your car across the country without automobile liability insurance? You should now think of the e-collar as your insurance policy in case you and your dog get into a wreck. It gives your dog a way out of trouble in an orderly fashion that it understands even when its instincts are telling it to do something else. What does it hurt for your dog to wear the e-collar when you go to the park, Grandma comes for a visit, it is time to go to the vet or a million other unknown distractions? You taught that the e-collar means the two of you are getting ready to do something fun, so keep the e-collar on.



Enjoy the Trip

You have now learned how to start down the road to a life of enjoyment with your dog. Some of these steps may need to be covered again if your dog has repeated failures. That is no problem as long as you take it easy and enjoy the ride together. Arriving is one of our goals but the trip that takes you there will be filled with memorable times that will cement you and your dog's relationship forever.

Good Training!

REWARDING WITH THE E-COLLAR

Most SportDOG remote trainers can also be used as a reward system. They feature a button that when depressed, emits a tone on the receiver. Some folks like to use this as a warning tone for their dog before stimulation. A better use would be to tone your dog each time it gives you a positive response to a command. You can start toning your dog while stroking its shoulder to begin conditioning it to the praise tone. Then, each correct response is followed with a praise tone via the collar. This can be a very effective method of rewarding your dog at a distance when voice or touch are not available.

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Trainer. He has presented seminar appearances all across the United States as well as South America.



RICK SMITH

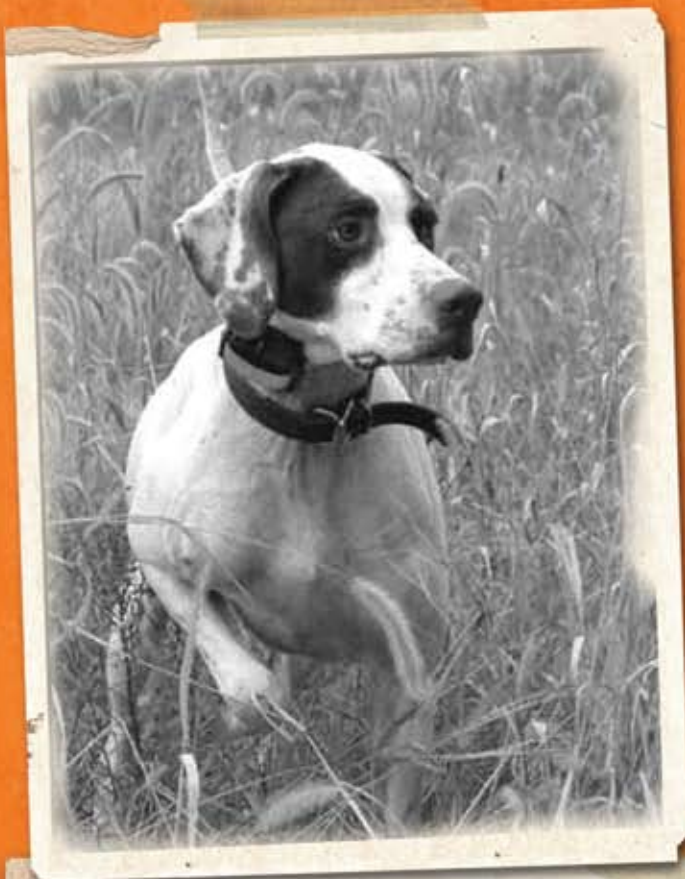
Rick Smith is the owner/operator of Rick Smith Kennels and Rick Smith Seminars, as well as being a South Texas quail guide. Rick has been a full-time professional trainer since 1969, and has worked with virtually every sporting

breed while specializing in field trial Brittany's.



The SportDOG Conservation Fund™ supports game populations by donating time and funding to projects that ensure hunters and their dogs will have wild places to pursue wild game for generations to come. From grants that fund local habitat-enhancement projects to large investments in partnerships with some of the most respected national conservation organizations in the United States, this program highlights our support of habitat and wildlife populations that depend on these natural resources.

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