

Bark Control

Training Manual



Why your dog barks

Barking is a natural behavior for all dogs. Sometimes, however, a barking dog is a problem for his owner. A responsible dog owner cannot let his or her dog become a nuisance to others. Chronic barking puts both the dog and the owner at risk of complaints from disturbed neighbors. It can also create unnecessary duties for animal control or police officers charged with upholding anti-barking ordinances. In some cases it can also lead to the relinquishment of the dog by an owner who does not know how to solve the problem.

Before a barking problem can be solved, a dog's owner must first understand why the dog is barking. For many dogs, chronic barking or howling is a cry for help. A dog who does not receive enough care or attention from his owner often becomes a barker. Dogs are social animals, and they need exercise and interaction with their human companions - and sometimes other dogs. Some dogs are simply bored when left alone in the home or the yard while the owner is away, and will bark at a passerby or at neighborhood disturbances. Owners of these dogs may not understand that a dog cannot be expected to sit quietly or entertain himself while his owner is away.

Once a dog owner has determined that the dog's social needs are being met, he or she must look for appropriate and effective ways to control the barking and prevent their dogs from becoming a nuisance to family and neighbors.

Eliminating problem barking

If your dog barks at a passerby, try closing him out of rooms or outside areas that border streets and sidewalks when he must be home alone. For dogs kept exclusively indoors, simply putting the dog outside does not often solve the problem. However, allowing a dog who barks when left outdoors to remain inside may be effective.

For some dogs, barking is simply an entertaining way to spend a long or boring day. Safe chew or play toys may help provide entertainment. A mid-day visit and a game of fetch with a professional pet-sitter, or a trusted adult neighbor, will also help to pass time and prevent barking.

Before beginning training with the Bark Control Collar

The Bark Control Collar was created to help dog owners deter unwanted barking. It can be used to control barking when the owner is not present or in other specific situations. It is a training tool, your success is dependent on proper use.

Introducing your dog to the Bark Control Collar

Before you begin training with an activated collar (battery inserted), you should first accustom your dog to a deactivated collar. By spending just three days introducing your dog to the collar you can avoid other problems from developing, such as your dog cowering when you approach him with the collar. Introduce your dog to the Bark Control Collar by spending a few minutes each day, for three days, by completing the following.

Day One

- Choose a small food reward (about the size of a pencil eraser) that your dog finds very desirable and that he will accept every time.
- Show your dog the Bark Control Collar (with the battery out) and let him smell it. As soon as he does, give him one food reward. Repeat this 3 to 5 times.
- Place the collar around your dog's neck for just a few seconds and then remove it. The first 2 to 4 times place it around his neck without buckling. Each time you place it around his neck, give him a food reward.

- Once he is used to the collar being placed around his neck, place the collar on his neck and buckle it. Be sure that you have the collar fitted in the same manner that it will be during actual training. Refer to the operations manual for determining proper fit of collar. After it has been on his neck for 30 to 60 seconds give him a food reward and remove the collar. Repeat this at least 5 times. Each time place the collar on for about 3 to 5 minutes longer.

Day Two

- Continue where you left off on day one. Each time you place the collar on your dog leave it on for about 2 to 4 minutes longer. Repeat this procedure at least 5 times.

Day Three

- Continue where you left off on day two. Each time you place the collar on your dog leave it on for about 4 to 6 minutes longer. Allow your dog to wear the collar in various situations; indoors and outdoors, in the presence of visitors, when you are out of his sight, etc.

Day Four

- This is the first day that your dog should receive the electronic correction.

Training with the Bark Control Collar

Before placing the activated collar on your dog, carefully choose the first situation in which it is going to be used.

This situation should be one in which your dog will learn easily, i.e., one with few distractions. If you do train in a situation with distractions, your dog may not associate the correction with his barking, but with something else. For example, if when your dog first barks, he is looking at a visitor to your home, he may perceive the visitor as being the cause of the correction, instead of his barking.

The initial training situation should also be one in which you can observe your dog's first few reactions to the collar. Do not leave your dog alone the first few times he receives a correction.

Train your dog only in this initial situation until he has learned what the consequence to barking is. Only then should you move on to the next situation. This will help ensure that your dog understands that barking is the behavior he must avoid, no matter what his reason for barking.

What to expect from your dog while training

The first time your dog receives the correction he may react in a way that concerns you. He may yelp or yip or jump

slightly. Do not be alarmed by these reactions. His first reaction to the correction will always be his most intense. Do not be alarmed by any such reaction. After the first few corrections his reaction will lessen. He will eventually just stop barking and remain calm. It is advised that you observe your dog's reactions to the correction.

You should notice an improvement in your dog's barking within the first week of training. At this point many dog owners feel that the "problem has been solved". In some cases this may be true, but in most cases the training is still not complete. Most, if not every dog, will "test" this new learning experience, i.e., they will increase their attempts to get away with barking. This testing period usually occurs during the second week of training. When it does occur you must remain consistent - do not alter your use of the Bark Control Collar.

Once your dog is trained, you must continue to place the collar on him in every situation in which he must be quiet. He may see a new dog or a squirrel through a window for the first time and he may bark. If he is not wearing the collar he may get away with barking and his training may suffer a setback. If he is wearing the collar, he will stop barking immediately and any setback will be prevented.

Using the Bark Control Collar with other devices

You may have a need to train your dog to do other things. If you decide to use another type of training tool, be selective with the type you use while your dog is wearing the Bark Control Collar. Generally, it is best not to let your dog wear more than one collar at a time. Never use a metal choker collar while your dog is wearing the Bark Control Collar. A metal choker may bang against the Bark Control Collar, triggering false vibrations and possibly false corrections. If you must have a second collar on your dog consider the use of a nylon choker collar or other non-metallic collar.

If you use a leash, attach it to a collar other than the Bark Control Collar. You should never attach a leash to the Bark Control Collar and you should never pull the Bark Control Collar while it is on your dog. Doing so you may cause damage by pulling the metal probes against his throat.

If you intend to use another electronic training collar (e.g., a remote trainer or a containment collar) you should first call our Customer Service Department (800-732-2677).

Using the No-correction caps

- When introducing your dog to the Bark Control Collar it is advised that you use the no-correction caps if the battery has been installed. This will help ensure that your dog does not receive a correction during this introductory phase.
- Once your dog has learned what the collar represents, you may use the no-correction caps in situations where you want to limit your dog's barking without a correction being felt.

Identification for your dog

Do not place any type of ID tag on the Bark Control Collar, such as metal or plastic tags which may cause a noise or vibration and consequently may cause a false correction. An ID tag may bang against the Bark Control Collar, triggering false vibrations and possibly false corrections. You will find an identification sticker in your Bark Control Collar kit - complete this sticker and place it on the bark control collar. This sticker will then serve to identify your pet in the event he becomes lost.

Frequently asked questions

Question: I am concerned that once I use my Bark Control Collar my dog will stop barking altogether. Will this happen?

Answer: This is highly unlikely, especially if you follow the advice in the Training Manual. Barking is a natural behavior and a needed outlet for a dog, so they are very good at learning what situations they are allowed to bark in.

Question: I would like my dog to learn not to bark only when the collar is on. Is this possible?

Answer: Yes this is possible. This is best accomplished by placing the collar on your dog only in those situations in which you never want him to bark. Also, never place the collar on your dog in those situations in which you want him to bark.

Question: I have more than one dog, but only one dog with a barking problem and I keep both dogs together. Is this going to cause any problems between my two dogs?

Answer: It should not be a problem, especially if you follow the procedures described in the "Introducing your dog to the Bark Control Collar" Section of this training manual.

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