Remote Training Systems: How they work

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

We all want our dogs to be well-behaved, delightful companions. At a minimum, your dog needs to know basic obedience commands, such as sit, stay, come, down, and heel. In addition to being more enjoyable, an obedient dog is a safe dog.

Your training "toolbox" may include a number of traditional tools, such as leashes, chain collars, treats, and toys. While these tools can be very successful while the dog is leashed, their effectiveness may diminish when the dog is off leash. If one of your training goals is to have a reliable dog off leash, one tool to consider adding to your training program is an electronic remote training collar.

Remote training systems allow you to control your dog from a distance. All remote training systems consist of a handheld transmitter that operates the collar remotely via radio frequency. When a button is pressed on the transmitter, the collar delivers a small harmless electrical sensation to your dog.

Remote trainers offer you many benefits. The biggest benefit is control of your dog while he is off his leash. When properly trained, you can take your dog virtually anywhere (to the park, to the beach, in to the woods, etc.) and be confident that he will obey your commands just as if you had him on a leash by your side. This off-leash control could be a matter of life and death in cases where your dog is heading for a road, heading for the water, or chasing another animal.

Today's remote trainers offer a multitude of features, such as a wide range of distances, waterproof collars, different stimulation modes, tone and vibration options, etc. All remote trainers offer adjustable electrical stimulation intensity levels (low to high). But some models offer four adjustable levels, while some offer 50! Choosing which remote training system is right for you and your pet requires careful consideration of each collar's features. Remote trainers can be grouped into three categories: short-range, medium range, and long range.

Short range training (up to 100 yards)

Short range training also called "yard training" consists of obedience work and behavior correction within a relatively short range - up to 100 yards. Short range trainers such as the PetSafe 305 Series Remote Trainer is an excellent choice for working with your dog in your backyard or in your home. They can be used to reinforce basic obedience commands or correct unwanted behavior such as digging or getting into the trash.

Medium range training (150 - 500 yards)

Medium range training consists of obedience work and behavior correction over a larger distance, perhaps at a park or farm or ranch. Medium-range trainers, such as the PetSafe 400 Yard and Park Trainer allow you additional flexibility by offering advanced features such as multiple tone options and more choice in stimulation intensity.

To decide which remote training system is right for your pet,

- Review the frequently asked questions (FAQs) for a list of questions designed to help you determine which features you require in a remote training collar.

Professional dog trainers have been successfully using remote training collars for years. But now remote training collars are rapidly gaining popularity with pet owners as a safe, humane, and effective training tool when used properly. The objective of remote training collars is to supplement traditional training methods by reinforcing commands you've already taught your dog and rules he thoroughly understands.

Eventually your dog learns that he is in control of the stimulation he receives. He does not associate the stimulation with you. He associates the stimulation with his behavior. Therefore, he learns to control the stimulation by controlling his behavior. When used properly, the remote trainer helps your dog become less confused and more confident in you and your leadership. In other words, a happier dog!

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*