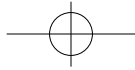
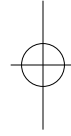
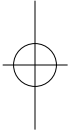




# Electronic Leash Training Guide





**INTRODUCTION**

Almost all behaviors exhibited by your dog are "normal" dog behaviors. When a dog runs after another dog, jumps on a visitor, or pulls on his leash, he is simply "acting like a dog".

Unfortunately, these normal behaviors can become excessive or occur at inopportune times. In many cases these "problem" behaviors may even result in accidental injury to others or even result in harm to your dog.

Dog training books describe numerous techniques for correcting these unwanted behaviors. Most work only when the dog is not distracted or they don't work at all.

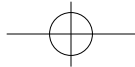
The Electronic Leash was created to help dog owners deter unwanted behaviors when their dog is on leash. It can be used to teach your dog many things including: the "heel", "come" or "sit" commands, pulling on the leash, sniffing the ground excessively, and improve on how he greets visitors.

Like any other training technique or training tool, the Electronic Leash is only as good as the person who is using it. **THUS, READ THIS TRAINING GUIDE IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO USE THIS TRAINING SYSTEM.**

**HOW DOGS LEARN**

The Electronic Leash works by taking advantage of how your dog naturally learns. Even though each dog is unique and different, they all learn the same. When a dog hears or sees something they behave either by reacting towards it or by reacting away from it. This has been termed the "Flight or Fight Response".

A dog also learns by determining which of their behavioral responses is the most "appropriate" by the "consequence" they receive in return. If a dog receives a negative consequence it will eventually learn to avoid the behavior that caused the consequence. In turn, if a dog receives a positive consequence it will continue to exhibit that particular behavior.





Dogs are also "situational" learners. That is, once they learn to avoid exhibiting a particular behavior in one situation, they will have to learn that this same behavior should be avoided in other situations. The same holds true for behaviors that result in a positive consequence.

Situational learning and the flight or fight response are among the many reasons why dogs can not be trained over night. These and other basic rules of dog learning are factors that must be considered when attempting to alter any dog behavior.

#### **INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO THE ELECTRONIC LEASH**

Before you begin training with an activated Electronic Leash, you should first accustom your dog to it. Your goal is to make it "meaningless" to your dog. Thus, when you do begin training, he will not associate the warning or correction with the leash, the collar, the receiver on the collar or you. If he would, you run the risk of him behaving in an acceptable manner only when he is wearing the Electronic Leash or only when you are holding it.

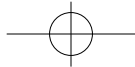
Your goal is to teach your dog that the warning and the correction result from an unknown source, and not from you, the leash, the collar or the receiver. If you achieve this goal, your dog will learn to avoid the correction by avoiding any behavior that precedes it.

Eliminating the Electronic Leash as a factor in learning is called the "dummy leash effect". To achieve this, spend a few minutes each day, for three days, completing the following:

#### **Day One**

Choose a food reward that your dog finds very desirable and that he will accept every time. The size of this food reward should be small (about the size of a pencil eraser) since your dog will be receiving quite a number of these during the introductory phase.

Show your dog the Electronic Leash and let him smell it. As soon as he does, give him one food reward. Repeat this 3 to 5 times.





Next place the collar portion of the leash around 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. As soon as he has worn it for about 10 seconds, give him a food reward and then remove the collar. When he is wearing it, hold the leash, push the buttons and occasionally pull on the leash to apply some pressure. Give him a food reward after you have completed these steps as well. Be sure that the Electronic Leash does not have the batteries installed during this exercise. Complete this procedure at least three to five times.

**Day Two**

Continue where you left off on day one. Each time you place the leash on your dog give him a food reward. Each time you take it off give him a food reward. Each time you place the leash on him leave it on for about 2 to 4 minutes longer. Repeat this procedure at least five times. Try and build the time your dog wears the collar to at least 30 minutes at a time.

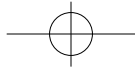
Be sure that you also push the buttons and pull the leash occasionally to apply some pressure. Do this numerous times throughout the day. Each time you complete any part of these steps, follow it with a food reward.

Once again, the batteries should not be in the Electronic Leash during these procedures.

**Day Three**

Continue the food reward each time the leash is placed on and taken off your dog. Allow your dog to wear the it in various situations; indoors and outdoors, in the presence of visitors, while you are playing with him, etc.  
**NEVER LEAVE THE LEASH ON WHEN YOUR DOG IS ALONE. THE LEASH SHOULD BE PLACED ON YOUR DOG ONLY WHEN YOU ARE WITH HIM.**

**DO NOT PLACE LEASH ON YOUR DOG WHILE YOUR DOG IS IN A KENNEL OR CAGE.**





Also, be sure that you reward him on a frequent basis when he is wearing the leash and he is acting appropriately.

#### **Day Four**

This is the first day that you should walk your dog on the leash. Do this with the batteries removed. Take him for very short walks in areas that have very few or no distractions at all. These areas may include an area in your house, your yard, or any other area that does not have distractions.

The idea is to spend some time walking your dog, with the Electronic Leash on, but not using it as a form of correction.

The batteries should not be placed in until day five.

#### **Day Five**

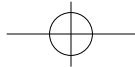
This is the first day that you should start training with an activated (batteries in) Electronic Leash.

### **TRAINING WITH THE ELECTRONIC LEASH**

#### ***The first training situation***

Before placing the activated leash 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 easily learn, i.e., one with few distractions. Your dog must learn that one of his behaviors produces the warning as well as a potential correction. If you first train in a situation with distractions, your dog may not associate the warning tone or the correction with his behavior, but with something else. For example, if when your dog first receives the correction he is jumping at, barking at, or looking at another dog, he may perceive the other dog as being the cause of the correction, instead of his inappropriate behavior.

Train your dog only in this initial situation until he has learned what the consequence is. Only then should you move on to the next situation or problem behavior. This will help ensure that your dog understands that there is one particular behavior he must avoid, no matter what the reason for his displaying the behavior. Over time he can learn that there are several behaviors that he must avoid.



***Choosing the level of correction***

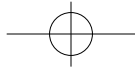
Before you correct your dog for the first time, be sure you have chosen the desired level of correction. Remember that the leash comes pre-set from the factory at the lowest level. The level you choose is dependent on your dog. Smaller dogs generally require a lower level than a larger dog. Dogs that are historically "stubborn" also may require a higher level. No matter the size or temperament of your dog, you should always start with the lowest level of correction.

If your dog does not show any signs of reacting to the correction, try increasing it to the next level. Continue to increase the level until the desired result is achieved, with the desired result being your dog stopping the misbehavior.

***What to expect during training***

The first time your dog receives the correction he may react in a way that "startles" you. He may yelp or yip or jump slightly. He may even turn and grab at the leash. Do not be alarmed by these reactions. His first reaction to the correction will always be his most intense. After the first few corrections his reaction will lessen. He will eventually just stop misbehaving and remain calm.

Once your dog is experienced with receiving the correction he will simply stop the misbehavior in response to receiving it or the warning tone. In many cases this occurs 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 still is not complete. Most, if not all dogs, will "test" this new learning experience, i.e., they will increase their attempts to get away with a particular behavior. If you in any way change the way you respond to your dog, he may interpret this as "getting away" with the behavior. If you remain consistent, your dog will test for less than a week. Once he is through with this testing or rebellious period, you must continue to place the leash on him in situations you expect him to behave. Remember, dogs are situational learners and there will be occasions where a specific situation might "change". When he sees a new distraction he may misbehave for the first time in weeks. If he is not wearing the leash, he will get away with the misbehavior and his training will suffer a setback. If he is wearing the leash and you correct immediately, any set back will be prevented.





### ***Using the training buttons***

The Operations Manual described that the "warning" button is used to give your dog a warning sound and the "correction" button is used to give your dog a correction.

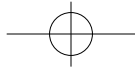
If the "warning" button is utilized, it should always be used prior to using the "correction" button. You should always allow at least 2 seconds to pass between the use of these two buttons, allowing your dog time to stop an inappropriate behavior and begin an appropriate one.

The "warning" button can be used in various situations. It may be used to stop a behavior that you find acceptable in one situation but unacceptable in another. For example, if while walking your dog, he barks at a stranger, you may find this acceptable and would reward him. However, if his barking becomes excessive, you might find this unacceptable and would warn him.

Lack of proper response to an obedience command is another situation where the "warning" button would be utilized. For example, if while walking your dog he gets to far ahead, you might tell him to "heel". If he does not respond to your command you could then give him a warning.

The "correction" button is used to correct or stop an unwanted behavior. The proper time to use the "correction" button is when your dog is misbehaving. This correction should never be given after your dog has stopped misbehaving.

If your dog does not stop misbehaving when you correct him, continue to hold the "correction" button down. This will initiate the "progressive correction" feature (review the Operations Manual for detailed description). If after holding the button down for three to five seconds your dog is still misbehaving, increase the level (Refer to Operations Manual) and try again.





### **GENERAL TRAINING TIPS**

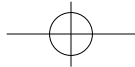
No matter what type of training you will be attempting with the Electronic Leash you should always keep the following in mind:

- Eliminate one misbehavior or teach one obedience command at a time. If you attempt to work on more than one at a time, you run the risk of your dog not being able to associate the correction with any misbehavior.
- If your dog reacts to the warning tone or the correction by hiding or acting "fearful", do not panic. Your best response is to redirect your dog to a simple and appropriate behavior, such as the "sit" command. Do not attempt to "bribe" your dog out of any inappropriate behavior, doing so will reward the misbehavior.
- Be consistent. Correct your dog every time he misbehaves. If you apply the correction correctly only 70% to 80% of the time, you may never achieve desired results. If you correct your dog every time he misbehaves, you will have to apply the correction fewer consecutive times.
- If there is one situation that your dog misbehaves in repeatedly, set-up this situation instead of waiting for it to happen. By setting up situations you dramatically increase your chances of success.
- Restrict your dog from situations in which he has a history of misbehaving, unless you are there to supervise him and are prepared to use the Spray Control Pet Trainer.

### **ELIMINATING SPECIFIC MISBEHAVIORS**

The most common misbehavior that can be improved through use of the Electronic Leash is pulling on the leash during walks. However the leash can also be used to help modify other behaviors such as jumping on people or furniture or greeting visitors to your home.

Never use the Electronic Leash to correct or eliminate any form of aggressive or biting behavior. In the event that your dog is exhibiting such aggressive behaviors contact a professional trainer in your area. When using your Electronic Leash for specific behavior modification, incorporate the following:







- Press the warning or correction button as soon as your dog begins the misbehavior.
- As soon as your dog stops the misbehavior, stop the warning or correction and reward your dog.
- Be prepared to warn or correct your dog at all times. You never know when he might misbehave.
- When pressing the warning or correction button, do not say anything to your dog. Reserve your verbalizations for when your dog is behaving.

### **OBEDIENCE TRAINING**

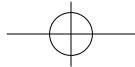
The Electronic Leash was also designed to help improve your dog's on-leash responses to obedience training. The most common commands that can be improved are "heel", "sit", and "stay". When using the leash to improve obedience responses, incorporate the following tips:

- Be sure that your dog has some basic understanding of the command first. Thus you should first train your dog in a controlled setting.
- When giving the command, say it only one time. If you use your dog's name, be sure that it is used prior to the command.
- After giving the command, wait two seconds for your dog to respond. If he responds appropriately, reward him. If he responds inappropriately, correct him using the "correction" button. As soon as he responds appropriately, release the button and praise him.

### **REMINDERS**

It is important that you review the following before using the Electronic Leash, they will help protect both you and your dog.

- Read this Training Guide in its entirety before attempting to train you dog with Electronic Leash.



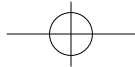
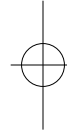
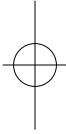


- Take a few days to introduce your dog to the Electronic Leash before using it for training.
- When your dog first experiences the correction, be sure that it is in a situation that contains few distractions.
- Train in one situation at a time.
- Always have the Electronic Leash on your dog in potentially troublesome situations.
- Your dog may test your use of the leash in various situations. Be consistent when this occurs.
- Never pull on the leash in a forceful manner.

**FURTHER ASSISTANCE**

If you have further questions about training with the Electronic Leash contact Radio Systems via one of the following methods:

Telephone: 800-732-2677  
Fax: 423-777-5415  
E-Mail: info@radiosys.com





**CLOSING STATEMENT**

At Radio Systems we believe that every dog should receive basic obedience training. This training helps the owner develop a relationship with their dog and also helps their dog understand its position in the "pack" or what is also known as your family. We recommend that you find a professional trainer in your area that can help you with this training.

If you would like more information on the topic of obedience training, call us at Radio Systems. We offer several educational products including Dr. Robert Andryscio's book, Tricks I Taught My Master, and his CD-ROM, Basic Obedience. His book and CD-ROM will give you advice both on obedience training and behavior problem solving. To order either the book or the CD-ROM you may call Radio Systems at 800-732-2677, fax to 423-777-5415 or E-Mail to [info@radiosys.com](mailto:info@radiosys.com).

Radio Systems Corporation  
10427 Electric Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37932

