Invisible Fence

BRAND

Safe Dog® Training Manual

™

Your dog safe @ home®

Made in the USA

Important Safeguards

1. Read and Keep the Manuals: Read all operating and training instructions before using your new Invisible Fence® pet containment system.

2. Training: Train your dog according to the instructions in this manual. Complete all steps before allowing your dog to run free.

3. Obey Warnings: Adhere to all warnings contained in this manual and on all Invisible Fence components.

4. Servicing: Other than repairing the signal loop wire, do not attempt to service any Invisible Fence equipment yourself. Refer all service to an authorized Invisible Fence professional only.

5. For Animal Use Only: An Invisible Fence pet containment system is designed for animal use only. Never attempt to use this product for any purpose not specifically described in Invisible Fence manuals.

IMPORTANT: If, for any reason, your Invisible Fence system does not operate as described in the operation and installation manual, or if you have any difficulty training your dog, call your Invisible Fence professional immediately.

Note: If you have any reason to believe that your dog may pose a danger to others, or that it may harm itself if it is not kept from crossing the Invisible Boundary ® signal wire, you should not rely solely on the Invisible Fence system to contain your pet.

Note: No type of fencing can prevent your pet from being stolen or attacked by other animals. Animal experts recommend that you do not leave pets unattended outside for long periods of time regardless of how they are contained.

Invisible Fence Pet Containment will not work unless:

1. You train your dog as prescribed in this manual.

2. The transmitter is on, connected to the signal loop wire, and producing a signal along the loop wire.

3. The loop wire is intact, continuous, and producing a blinking green LED on the transmitter.

4. The Computer Collar® is worn by your pet.

5. The Computer Collar is adjusted so that the posts are touching your dog's skin.

6. The Power Cap® battery in the Computer Collar is fresh and properly installed.

7. The 12v AC transformer is plugged into the transmitter and is connected to a 110v outlet.

Note: The following precautions should always be taken.

1. Never attempt to install the Invisible Fence pet containment system unless you have first consulted your Invisible Fence professional and have Invisible Fence installation instructions.

2. Never install the transmitter where it could be exposed to the elements, doing so will void the manufacturer's warranties.

3. Monitor the transmitter periodically to ensure that the unit is operating properly and is producing a signal.

4. Caution: Always remove your dog's Computer Collar before making an adjustment to your Invisible Fence system.

5. Do Not become overly confident that your dog has become conditioned sooner than expected. Complete all of the training steps before allowing your dog to run free.

6. If you have any questions about any aspect of your Invisible Fence system, please call your Invisible Fence professional immediately.

The Goal of Invisible Fence Safe Dog training is to teach a dog to identify and retreat from the boundary. To make the training fair so the dog will understand the consequences of trying to leave. To make the training fun so the dog will enjoy staying and playing on his*own property.

It is critical to follow the complete Invisible Fence training course. The majority of problems that occur with a system are due to inadequate follow-up training, and/or management of the dog, or misuse of the Invisible Fence pet containment system.

The ideal canine candidate for Invisible Fence pet containment is a neutered, non-aggressive dog who is used to a leash and is beyond any youthful sensitivity periods. Depending on the dog, this period is usually between 4 and 6 months of age. You can contact your local Invisible Fence® professional with questions about training pups and any behavioral issues related to youthful sensitivity.

*Throughout this manual dogs are referred to as he or him.

Training Equipment

1. Leads
· Six Foot Lead
Most commonly found in nylon, cotton and leather. Six feet may be the easiest length to use for beginning "Retreat" training in Lesson One.
· Fifteen Foot Lead
Fifteen feet is not the easiest length lead to handle. The fifteen foot lead is used for the correction and distraction training.
· Retractable Lead
A retractable lead can be a great alternative, it can be used as a 6 foot lead for beginning retreat training and also as 15 foot for the correction and distraction training.

2. Training Collars
There are different types of collars; you can use your dog's existing collar as the training collar for Safe Dog® training.
· Flat Collar
When using a flat collar, make sure it doesn't slide under the Computer Collar®.
· Slip Collar
If you are using a slip collar, it must be put on

This is the correct fit for the Computer Collar. The Woodhouse, or slip collar, is also on correctly.
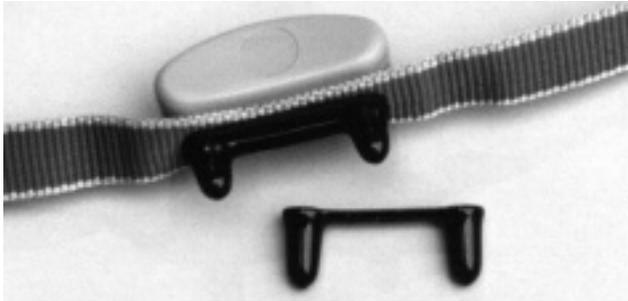
and used properly. If you are working your dog on your left side, form the collar into a P, then, facing the dog, slip it over his head. In this position it will only release quickly when your dog is on your left. If you have not been trained on the proper use of this collar, consult your Invisible Fence® professional."

3. Computer Collar
The Invisible Fence Computer Collar should fit snugly at the top of your dog's neck where the neck is most narrow and has the least fur. Adjust the collar so it's just snug enough to slide one finger between a post and your dog's neck. To work properly, the correction posts must touch your dog's skin. Periodic adjustment of the collar's fit may be necessary as a dog's coat, weight, and age change.

You may think a properly fitted Computer Collar is too tight and too high. Although this is a collar, it is not like any other, and to work best it must fit high and snug.

The Computer Collar should be put on before each lesson and taken off after.

4. Computer Collar®Post Cover

The Post Cover completely covers both Computer Collar posts. Cover the posts during the initial training, usually the first three days, while your dog learns the boundary and retreat lessons.

The following precautions should always be taken:

1. Always remove the dog's Computer Collar before making any adjustment to the Invisible Fence system.
2. Gradually allow the dog to become accustomed to his new Computer Collar. Remove it every night during the first month and periodically thereafter. This will ensure proper fit and avoid any irritation that the posts may cause to the dog's skin.
3. **DO NOT** secure the posts on the collar with any kind of glue or adhesive.
4. **DO** use the post tightening tool to tighten the posts.

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5. Training Flags

Temporary visual aids that help your dog see the borders of the property and safe areas.

Set the flags three to four feet into the signal field from where the warning sound begins. Put a flag every six to eight feet around the entire boundary.

Training More than 1 Dog

Training more than one dog on the system at a time is entirely possible, but each dog must have separate training lessons.

Each dog must be individually trained all the way through the point of flag removal.

Note: Wait a full 30 days after your dog has become completely relaxed in the yard before activating any indoor signal field loops.

WARNING: Some persons claim that the shock from an electronic receiver collar can provoke an animal to become aggressive, and possibly to attack or bite. Customer is hereby warned to be alert for growling, snarling, biting, or other aggressive behaviors by any animal using the system, especially during training.
If any such behavior is observed, particularly if it appears to be associated in any way with the system, Customer should immediately stop using the system, unplug the transmitter, and contact your Invisible Fence Dealer or Invisible Technologies, Inc.
Reported incidents have typically involved:
1) dogs with pre-existing aggressive tendencies;
and
2) other provocation at the time of the incident.
Reports to Invisible Technologies, Inc. alleging such incidents are rare, less than one in 10,000,

Pace the Training

Safe Dog training should always proceed based on the behavior of your dog, not on the number of days of training. While days of training are a useful rough guide, they are not set in stone. If your dog is ready for the next step, even if it is ahead of the time line, proceed. If your dog is not ready, do not proceed. For this reason we list **Behavioral Indicators** first and **Time Line** second. How your dog is learning is what should decide if the training is progressing, not the calendar.

The Time Table

Lesson One, the Retreat Pattern
At least two 10 minute sessions a day for 3 days. Remember these are averages.
A dog may need more or less time.

Lesson Two, the Correction
Usually one session on day 4.

Lesson Three, Distractions
Several sessions; the more the better. A great play game.

Lesson Four, Off Lead Supervision
Two times a day for a week.

Lesson Five, Off Lead Unsupervised, but Observed
Ten minutes at a time for 2 weeks.

Lesson Six, Removing the Flags
Remove the flags every other one every other day after 4 weeks.

Lessons One and Three take the most time, patience, and practice.

At the start of Invisible Fence Safe Dog training, a dog will depend on many clues: the flags, the leash, the trainer, and the Computer Collar® warning sound.

Over time all of the learning aids except the Computer Collar, with its warning sound, will gradually be removed.

A Typical Training Routine

1. Put the training collar and lead on the dog.
2. Put on his Computer Collar.
   Make sure the post covers remain in place until the correction lesson.
3. Make sure the Computer Collar is high on the dog's neck and snug with the posts touching the skin.
4. Play with the dog. Have fun. Relax. Laugh and praise him.
5. Review the previous day's lesson.
6. Do boundary work at locations all around the property. Review the dog's progress.
7. End the session with relaxing play.
8. Bring the dog indoors and take off his training collar and Computer Collar.

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1. Use a Calendar Only as a Guide

Let your dog's learning progress be the rule. Don't proceed until your dog understands the lesson.

**2. All Lessons Start and End
with Play and Praise in the Safe Area**

This simple rule will prevent some problems and help both you and your dog view the training process as a positive one. When you enjoy training, you are much more likely to do the training well.

3. Relax in the Safe Area

This step is critical and should not be rushed. Take at least three to five minutes to walk around and play with a ball in the safe area, not near the boundary. Have a good time this relaxes the dog.

4. Leash Stays On

Until your dog fully understands where the boundaries are and how to handle temptations appropriately, he must be kept on-lead.

5. Supervision is Constant

Until your dog knows all of the boundaries and consistently retreats when near them, adult supervision is mandatory. Allowing your dog to make a mistake early in training teaches him that boundaries can be crossed.

6. Training Collar is Taken Off

Slip collars are not safe for casual wear, they must be taken off after each lesson.

7. Keep the Dog Home

The more your dog stays on your property during the 30 days of training, the less confused he will be.

If you want to leave the yard with your dog for any reason, during the first month, first remove his Computer Collar®, and then take him off of and back onto your property in a vehicle.

After your dog is completely trained to the Invisible Fence® system, which usually takes 30 days, he can be trained to leave the property on a lead.

A. Remove the Computer Collar and attach the lead to your dog's regular collar.
B. Encourage your dog to follow you off the property, always at the same location, such as the driveway.
C. Your dog will soon learn to leave the property only when he is wearing a lead.

Computer Collar Habits

1. Always Check the Fit

Every time the Computer Collar is put on, the fit should be checked. You should be able to fit a finger between your dog's neck and one of the Computer Collar posts. The Computer Collar should be as high up on your dog's neck as possible.

2. Remove It Regularly

Computer Collars are best put on and taken off at the door, especially when training is first starting.

3. Check the Dog's Neck Daily

Doing a quick check of your dog's neck after the Computer Collar is removed is a good habit to get into. Neck irritation can develop at any time, but is most likely to occur during warm, wet weather conditions; with thick-coated dogs; during shedding season; and any time the Computer Collar is left on for long periods.

If your dog gets wet, remove the Computer Collar and dry his neck before you put the Computer Collar back on him.

Lesson One

Retreat

This lesson usually takes two, ten minute sessions per day for three days. Usually morning and evening. This allows time for your dog to mentally rest and think about what he's learned.

The idea is to allow your dog to go up to the Invisible Fence signal field boundary.

When your dog reaches the boundary, where the warning sound starts, you have to lead him back into the *safe area*. Your dog is responding to the redirect or tug on the lead. You are leading him away from the boundary and into the happy, *safe area* where you praise and play with him. The retreat should be to the center of the *safe area* or at least a minimum of 10 to 12 feet from the boundary of the area where he is being trained.

You will see, with each succeeding session, the dog automatically retreating and joining you in the *safe area*. He will connect the dots as each day passes. Soon he should anticipate the tug and turn around on his own.

Remember to congratulate him with praise for making the correct decision.

The Goal for Lesson One

To introduce your dog to the Invisible Boundary® and to help him understand the idea of retreating when he hears the warning sound.

First Training Lesson, Sound Only

To insure the most effective learning by your dog, the first Invisible Fence Safe Dog training lesson uses sound only. Make sure the special Post Cover is completely covering both Computer Collar® posts as shown at the top of page 2.

Lesson One, Days One, Two, and Three
Teaching the Dog the Retreat Pattern

Put the training collar on your dog. Attach the lead to the training collar.

When using a flat collar, make sure it does not slip under the Computer Collar.

Fit the Computer Collar high and snug on your dog's neck, where it narrows. The covered Computer Collar posts must make contact with your dog's skin.

Make sure your dog is comfortable. Start with play and praise. Set a happy tone with *play*. Get him on your side with *praise*.

During a typical lesson, you can work all sides of the boundary at least once. Always end each lesson with three to five minutes of relaxing and playing in the *safe area*.

After the lesson, take your dog indoors and remove his training collar and Computer Collar.

Following are separate directions for using a 6 foot, retractable, or 15 foot lead. Follow the instructions for the type of lead you are using.

Retreat Technique Using a 6 Foot Lead

Hold the lead as shown in *photo* **A**. With your dog on your left and slack lead in your left hand, command the dog with a clear "Let's go", step forward and casually walk with your dog leading, to the edge of the signal field, *photo* **B**.

photo **A**

photo **B**

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photo **C**

When your dog is about to step on the line, *photo* **C**, turn 180˚ to your right, an about face. Let go of the lead with your left hand and then immediately grab it again holding it firmly under your right fist, and retreat from the boundary, *photo* **D**.

photo **D**

photo **E**

Your dog will feel the redirect on the lead, *photo* **E**, and retreat right behind you, *photo* **F**.

The pace of your retreat should vary according to the size, weight and temperament of your dog.

photo **F**

While he is catching up with you, cheer him on. Play, romp, make it a big game. As you play, cross the yard to the next boundary area you plan to train him at. By the time you arrive there your dog should be relaxed, happy and ready to learn more.

Retreat Technique
Using a Retractable Lead

Hold the handle of the retractable lead as shown in *photo* **G**.

photo **G**

photo **H**

Play and have fun in an area of the yard where you will be training. Start walking in the direction of the boundary. Let out enough of the lead so that your dog can roam freely towards the flags, *photo* **H**.

Watch carefully as your dog approaches the boundary. He may indicate that he hears the warning

photo **I**

photo **J**

sound by tilting his head or twitching his ears, *photo* **I**. The instant your dog hears the warning sound, press the brake on the lead, *photo* **J**. Immediately bring your dog into the *safe area* and praise him as he approaches you, *photo* **K**.

While he is catching up to you, cheer him on. Play, romp, make it a big game. As you play with him, cross the yard to the next boundary area you plan to work. By the time you arrive your dog should be relaxed, happy and ready to learn more.

photo **K**

Retreat Technique
Using 15 Foot Lead
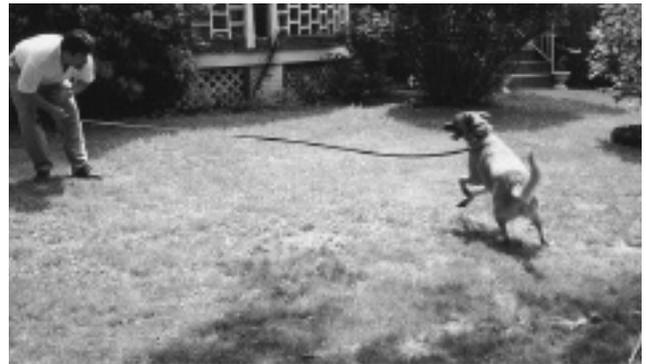Hold the 15 foot lead as shown in *photo* **L**.

photo **L**

photo **M**

Play and have fun in an area of the yard where you will be training. Start walking in the direction of the boundary. With your left arm extended, guide the lead with your left hand. Let out enough of the lead so that your dog can roam freely towards the flags, *photo* **M**.

photo **N**

photo **O**

Watch carefully as your dog approaches the boundary. He may indicate that he hears the warning sound by tilting his head or twitching his ears. The instant your dog hears the the warning sound, give a tug on the 15 foot lead, *photo* **N** Immediately bring him into the *safe area* and praise him as he approaches you, *photo* **O**.

While he is catching up to you, cheer him on. Play, romp, make it a big game. As you play with him, cross the yard to the next boundary area you plan to work. By the time you arrive your dog should be relaxed, happy and ready to learn more.

Lesson Two

The Correction

The Goals for Lesson Two

Your dog may be tempted to break the rules. To prevent this, he must understand that there are consequences to inappropriate behavior.

· When is your dog ready?

When he retreats consistently and voluntarily from the warning sound.

· Time Line

Normally on day four.

· Preparation

1. Be sure to leave the Post Covers on the Computer Collar® while you review the previous lesson.
2. Put on the training collar with a 15 foot or retractable lead attached
3. Start with play and praise in the safe area.
4. Review day three's lesson, making sure your dog understands that lesson before moving on.

Note: The Computer Collar Post Cover is removed before Lesson Two begins and may be discarded.

The Lesson

1. Remove the Post Cover from the Computer Collar.
2. Put on the Computer Collar. Make sure the posts touch your dog's skin and that the collar is high and snug on your dog's neck. When the Computer Collar is on properly you should be able to fit a finger between your dog's neck and one of the Computer Collar posts.
3. Start with play and relaxing in the safe area. Repeat the steps in Lesson One.
4. Have another family member go through the Invisible Boundary® signal field. Let your dog follow. This person must continue on and not look back. After your dog receives a Computer Collar correction, bring him back into the *safe area* and lavish him with happy praise. Laugh.
5. The proper response to any reaction to a Computer Collar correction is to run back into safe area while praising and playing with the dog.
6. Try it again. If your dog responds correctly, praise him, then move to another boundary area. End the session with happy play.
7. Ideally, your dog should not receive more than 2 corrections during one session.

It is critical that you set a positive, fun tone to this experience.

If you are concerned about your dog's reaction to the Computer Collar correction, remember how you say "Hey!" or "Yow!" when surprised by static energy after walking across a carpet and touching a door knob. It doesn't really hurt, but it is surprising.

Your dog is reacting to the surprise just like you do. Don't react with sympathy to your dog's response, instead generously praise him and relax with him. Laugh. End the lesson with play.

Lesson Three

✔ *Note: This is the most important, but often short-changed part of training.*
A dog must learn to resist temptations.

Distractions

Most dogs can't generalize concepts, but they do learn specifics easily. Never assume that because a dog won't chase a ball, that he won't chase a bicycle. The more distractions your dog is exposed to, the better.

· When is your dog ready?

When your dog refuses to enter the signal field boundary or retreats quickly when he hears the Computer Collar® warning sound.

· Time line

From the day after receiving the first correction onward. Repeat for several days with many varying temptations.

· Preparation

1. Put the Computer Collar is in place on your dog.
2. Put on the training collar with a 15 foot or retractable lead attached.
3. For the first day of distractions have an array of temptations that are mildly stimulating.

The Lesson

1. Start with play and praise in the safe area. If your dog likes balls, roll one into the signal field. He must resist or he will receive a correction. If this happens run him back into the *safe area* while praising and playing with him.
2. Repeat the procedure.

It is impossible to proof a dog against too many distractions. It is completely fair to have a family member walk through the signal field. Show your dog a food treat, then toss the treat down by a flag, throw a ball through the signal field, have a strange dog walk outside the boundary, or use any other real life temptation.

If your dog stays in the *safe area*, wonderful. Back away from the Invisible Boundary® and celebrate. Praise him. Really let him know what a good decision he made.

You must proof your dog on a wide range of stimuli. Go well beyond a tennis ball thrown over the line or a family member crossing the boundary.

Here are a few possible distractions.
• Balls of All Sizes   • Bicycle
• Child   • Jogger
• Another Dog   • Cat
• Remote Control Toy Car • Automobile
• UPS or Mail Carrier   • Frizbee
• Fake Fur or a Towel Dragged on Fishing Line

Do temptation work at two points or more on each side of the boundary. Pay special attention to areas of distraction where your dog can see people or animals near his boundaries, corners; long, straight runs, or the driveway.

Preparation for removing the lead.
Dragging the Lead, usually by day 7 or 8

After your dog consistently refuses to cross the boundary when tempted by distractions, usually by day seven, let go of the lead and let your dog drag it behind him. By allowing your dog to drag the lead you maintain control of the situation while giving him freedom in the yard. This alone may be a distraction because it may be the first time your dog has been "unattached" to the owner or physically able to run loose in the yard.

Continue to tempt your dog to cross the boundary using distractions that he has refused to follow in previous sessions. Gradually build up the level of distractions with the lead dragging behind him. When your dog is ignoring distractions while dragging the lead he is ready to move on to Lesson Four.

⚠ *WARNING: Never pull or call a dog into the signal field.*
This is confusing and unfair to the dog

Lesson Four

Off-Lead Supervision

The Goals for Lesson Four

To remove one of the training aids, specifically the lead, to test whether your dog has really learned the idea of avoiding the boundaries no matter what happens.

· When is your dog ready?

When your dog will not enter the signal field boundary for any reason what-so-ever.

· Time line

Usually by day 8, but do not proceed with training based on days, proceed based on behavior indicators. Repeat this lesson for one week, at least 2 times a day for no more than 10 minutes each. Right after your dog relieves himself is a good time.

· Preparation

1. During these sessions your dog should wear his flat collar with his ID tag, as well as the Computer Collar®.
2. The Computer Collar must fit high and snug on your dog's neck.
3. The flat collar is worn loose and not interfering with the Computer Collar.
4. Attach a 15 foot lead to the flat collar.

The Lesson

1. With your dog on-lead, start with play and praise in the safe area.
Check your dog's progress by tossing a treat into the signal field. If your dog reacts by not going after the treat, he has learned. Praise him generously.
2. Casually detach the lead from the flat collar and keep the lead with you.
3. Resume play. Play ball or fetch, or any other outdoor activity that you and your dog would normally do together.
4. Use distractions and do temptation work. Be very attentive, but relaxed.

· What if Your Dog Crosses the Boundary

Leave your property with a lead, happily call your dog, and praise him for coming to you. DO NOT scold or correct your dog. Attach the lead to the flat collar on your dog and remove the Computer Collar, then walk your dog back into the yard. Do not praise the dog in the signal field. When you are in the *safe area* put the Computer Collar back on your dog, shake a flag and say "No". *Bring your dog into the house and call your Invisible Fence® professional immediately.*

Note: A returning dog must be praised for returning.
It is too late to correct him for running off and any negative greeting given will only reinforce that returning is a bad thing.

If you cannot retrieve your dog, you should turn off the system by unplugging the transformer from the 110v outlet. Some dogs will come readily to a car, so start it up in the driveway and see if that works. Playing ball with another person or shaking a box of treats also may work. *When your dog is back inside, call your Invisible Fence professional immediately.*

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Lesson Five

Brief Freedom Alone Within the System

· When is your dog ready?

When he resists temptations of any kind both on and off-lead while supervised.

· Time Line

By day 14, and proceeds for 2 more weeks.

The Lesson

Your dog can now be unattended, but observed, from inside the house. Freedom should be brief at first, still no more than 10 minutes. We suggest that you use a timer. *Haste will make waste at this stage of your dog's training. Also, if your dog's response is anything but immediate retreat from the signal field, he should be brought into the house and you must call your Invisible Fence professional immediately.*

Make the end of a successful free period fun for your dog. Call him and give him treats. Go out and play ball and make it clear to your dog that staying in the yard is great. When playing ball for fun, throw it into the *safe area* rather than toward a boundary.

Note: A bad habit, which may develop at this time, is fence running. Dogs who are allowed to charge up and down a straight boundary, barking nonstop, are working themselves up to a potentially boundary breaching frenzy. If this happens, call your Invisible Fence professional.

Lesson Six

Removing the Training Flags

· Behavioral Indicator

Your dog has now been successfully contained off-lead for two weeks with no problems.

· Time Line

Normally 4 weeks after the start date.

The Lesson

Remove every other flag, every other day. Leave flags at the corners of property and at high stress areas until after all of the other flags have been taken away. If your dog is testing the system regularly, is high energy, or excitable, leave the training flags in place for a longer period of time.

Invisible Fence

Questions or comments? Please call 1-800-538-DOGS or visit www.invisiblefence.com.