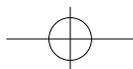




# Pet Pager Training Guide





## INTRODUCTION

Almost all behaviors exhibited by your dog are "normal" dog behaviors. When a dog jumps on your sofa, chews on your shoes or runs across the street after a squirrel, he is simply "acting like a dog".

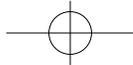
Unfortunately, these normal behaviors can sometimes become excessive or occur at the wrong time. In many cases these "problem" behaviors may even result in damage to your property, accidental injury to others, or even result in harm to your dog.

Of the many techniques available, many work only when the owner is within grabbing distance of the dog, or they don't work at all. Many dog owners that have a problem dog and can not find a technique that works, all ask a common question, "How do I stop my dog from misbehaving when he is too far away for me to reach him?"

What can complicate training even further is if your dog happens to be deaf or hard of hearing. Owners of these "disabled" dogs all want to know, "How do I get my dog's attention when he is not looking at me?"

The Pet Pager was created to help dog owners "interrupt" unwanted behaviors from a distance. It can be used to interrupt almost any behavior that you see your dog exhibiting or to teach your dog to respond to obedience commands when he is off his leash. The Pet Pager is also a great device for training dogs with little or no hearing.

Like any other training technique or training tool, the Pet Pager is only as good as the person who is using it. **READ THIS TRAINING GUIDE IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO USE THE PET PAGER.**





## HOW DOGS LEARN

The Pet Pager 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.

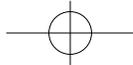
Dogs are also "situational" learners. That is, once they learn to avoid exhibiting a particular behavior in one situation, they will have to learn that this same behavior should be avoided in other situations. The same holds true for behaviors that result in a positive consequence.

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.

It is also important to note that a dog's learning process is not altered by the fact that he can not hear you.

## INTRODUCING YOUR DOG TO THE PET PAGER

Before you begin training with an activated Pet Pager, you should first accustom your dog to both the receiver and the transmitter. Your goal is to make the receiver and the transmitter "meaningless" to your dog. So when you do begin training, he will not associate the beep or the interrupting "vibration" with the receiver on his collar or with the transmitter. If he would, you run the risk of him behaving only when he sees you holding the remote or only when he is wearing the receiver.





Eliminating the remote and the receiver as a factor in learning is called the "dummy equipment 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 both the remote and the receiver with the collar attached and let him smell them. As soon as he does, give him one food reward. Repeat this 3 to 5 times.

Next place the collar 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 reward and then remove the collar. While he is wearing the collar, point the remote at him and push the buttons. Give him a food reward after you have completed this step as well. Be sure that the remote and the receiver do not have batteries in them during this exercise. Complete this procedure three to five times.

**Day Two**

Continue where you left off on day one. Each time you place the collar on your dog give him a food reward. Each time you take it off give him a food reward. Each time you place the collar 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 point the remote at him numerous times throughout the day. Each time you point it, push the buttons. Each time you complete this, follow it with a food reward.

Once again, the batteries should not be in the remote or in the receiver during these procedures.



**Day Three**

Continue the food reward each time the collar is placed on and taken off your dog. Leave the

collar on for progressively longer periods of time. 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.

Also, continue the food reward when you point the remote at him. Try and carry the remote with you the entire day. You must get used to having the remote with you when your dog is wearing the collar. The belt clip on the remote will help achieve convenient access.

The batteries should not be placed in either the remote or in the receiver until day four.

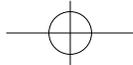
**Day Four**

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

**TRAINING WITH THE PET PAGER**

The first training situation. Before placing an activated receiver 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 beep or vibration. If you first train in a situation with distractions, your dog may not associate the beep or vibration with his behavior, but with something else. For example, if when your dog first receives the vibration he is jumping on, and looking at, a visitor to your home, he may perceive the visitor as being the cause of the vibration, instead of his inappropriate jumping behavior.

The initial training situation should also be one in which you will be relatively close to your dog when he receives his first few vibrations. This allows you to observe your dog's first few reactions to the collar, determine if the collar is functioning properly and if he is actually sensing the vibration.





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 will learn that there are several behaviors that he must avoid.

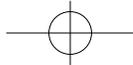
***What to expect during training***

Once your dog is experienced with receiving the vibration he will simply stop the misbehavior in response to receiving it or the beep. This will probably occur 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 collar 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 receiver, and/or you do not have the transmitter available, he may get away with the misbehavior and his training could suffer a setback. If he is wearing the collar and you use it immediately, most set backs can be prevented.

***Using the transmitter buttons***

The Operations Manual described that the "beep" button is used to give your dog a "warning" sound and the "vibration" button is used to "interrupt" your dog's behavior.

If the warning is utilized, it should always be used prior to using the vibration. 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 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 when your dog barks at strangers, you probably find this acceptable and would reward him. However, if his barking becomes excessive, you might find this unacceptable and would warn him.

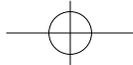
Lack of proper response to an obedience command is another situation where the warning would be utilized. For example, if your dog is running after a squirrel and does not hear you give the "come" command, the warning could then be used to warn him to stop and return to you.

The vibration button is used to interrupt or help stop an unwanted behavior. The proper time to use this button is when your dog is misbehaving. This vibration should never be given after your dog has stopped misbehaving.

#### **GENERAL TRAINING TIPS**

No matter the reason for using the Pet pager 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 warning or interruption with any misbehavior.
  
- If your dog reacts to the warning tone or the vibration 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. Use the Pet Pager the same way every time your dog misbehaves. If you apply the warning or vibration only 70% to 80% of the time, you may never achieve desired results.
  
- 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 Pet Pager.





**ELIMINATING SPECIFIC MISBEHAVIORS**

The Pet Pager was designed to help you cope with those misbehaviors that are exhibited by your dog while in a fairly close proximity (75 feet or less) to you. These misbehaviors are of a wide variety and include, but are not limited to, jumping on people or furniture, digging holes, excessive barking, scratching doors or furniture, excessive licking or chewing, not "coming when called", etc.

NEVER USE THE PET PAGER 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.

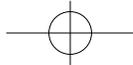
When using your Pet Pager for specific behavior modification, incorporate the following:

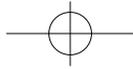
- Press the warning or vibration button as soon as your dog begins the misbehavior.
- As soon as your dog stops the misbehavior, stop the warning or vibration and reward your dog.
- Be prepared to use the Pet Pager at all times. You never know when he might misbehave.
- When pressing the warning or vibration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

**OBEDIENCE TRAINING**

Incorporate the following tips when using the Pet Pager to improve your dog's responses to obedience commands:

- Be sure that your dog has some basic understanding of the command first. Thus you should first train your dog in a controlled setting (enclosed area) or on a leash.
- 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, interrupt him using the vibration button. As soon as he responds appropriately, release the button and praise him.

#### **TRAINING DEAF DOGS OR DOGS THAT ARE HARD OF HEARING**

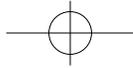
The Pet Pager is a very effective tool when working with or training a dog that is deaf or hard of hearing. The most common use is to alert a dog to the fact that it should stop whatever behavior it is doing at the time and return to its owner.

If you are using the Pet Pager to work with such a dog, incorporate the following tips:

- Do not use the beep button. Obviously, if your dog is deaf he will not hear it. This function is for those dogs that can hear.
- Be sure to first establish the vibration as being representative of reward. This is easily accomplished by placing your dog on a leash, pressing the vibration button and then physically signaling him to "come" to you. Once he does, give him a food reward. This should be completed numerous times until it is obvious your dog has learned.
- Once your dog has learned to "come" in response to the vibration while wearing a leash, you should then train him off a leash. However, the first training sessions should be in an area that he can not escape. Tennis courts or enclosed ball fields make for great training areas.
- When you are confident that your dog is responding off leash in a controlled setting, you should then continue the training in more distracting settings.

#### **USE OF THE PET PAGER WITH OTHER TRAINING DEVICES**

Be selective with the type of training device you use while your dog is wearing the Pet Pager receiver.





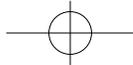
When using a leash, attach it to a collar other than the Pet Pager collar. Never attach a leash to the Pet Pager collar and never pull on the Pet Pager collar while it is on your dog. Also, be sure that this other collar is placed above the Pet Pager collar. This will prevent the collar from being pulled against the receiver collar.

Finally, if you intend to use another type training collar (e.g., a bark control collar or a containment collar) you should first call our Customer Service Department (800-732-2677) to determine which are recommended.

#### REMINDERS

It is important that you review the following before using the Pet Pager, they will help protect both you and your dog:

- Read this Training Guide in its entirety before attempting to train you dog with the Pet Pager.
- Take a few days to introduce your dog to the Pet Pager before using it for training.
- When your dog first experiences the beep or vibration, be sure that it is in a situation that contains few distractions.
- The first few times your dog receives the correction be present to observe his response.
- Train in one situation at a time.
- Always have the Pet Pager receiver on your dog and the transmitter in your possession when in potentially troublesome situations.
- Your dog may test the collar and various situations. Be consistent when this occurs.
- Do not attach the Pet Pager receiver to a metal choker collar.
- Do not attach a leash to the Pet Pager receiver collar.





**FURTHER ASSISTANCE**

If you have further questions about training with the Pet Pager 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 800-825-5087, fax to 423-777-5415 or E-Mail to info@radiosys.com.

Radio Systems Corporation  
10427 Electric Avenue  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37932

