



Tri-Tronics G2 Basic Training Guide

Congratulations!

Your Tri-Tronics G2 Remote Trainer will make it easier for your dog to learn, and easier for you to train your dog. With the aid of this training manual and our DVD, you can teach your canine best friend to become the good citizen he can be, as you set the foundation for more advanced field or competition training.

If you have any questions or would like more training information, we're here to help. You can reach us at support@tritronics.com or by calling 1-800-456-4343.



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INTRODUCTION

Two Ways to Use Remote Trainers

There are two ways to use your Remote Trainer in dog training. You can use it to reinforce commands, like “Come” or “Heel,” and you can use it to stop misbehaviors, like digging and jumping up. This booklet will give you some instruction in both types of training.

Just because a dog understands a command does not mean that he automatically understands a correction from a Remote Trainer. A step-by-step introduction to the Remote Trainer can help him relate his own failure to obey with the correction he receives, and can keep him from becoming confused.

Keeping the dog from becoming collar-wise

A collar-wise dog believes that not wearing the collar is a cue that he is free to disobey commands. If your dog becomes collar-wise, the collar will be less useful in your training program than it otherwise would be.

Here are some tips to help keep your dog from becoming collar-wise

When you are training commands, don't work the dog without the collar too soon. All dogs have their moments of forgetfulness after they seem to have learned a lesson. Be prepared to remind a forgetful dog. You can make a dog collar-wise if you work him without the collar before his obedience has become a habit in many different locations.

Don't make the training mistake of removing the collar in the middle of a session to “see if the dog will still do it without the collar.” If you put the

collar on or take it off in the middle of a training session, you will tend to make your dog collar-wise because you'll give him an opportunity to compare results. A good rule of thumb is to have the collar on the dog during training for 30 days after the last time you had to press a button. Also, you should plan on having the collar on the dog during training for 30 days after you have reintroduced the collar to help with a particular problem. Remember that these rules apply in every situation in which you might need to reinforce a command with the collar, not just in formal training sessions.

If you are using the collar for problem behaviors...

A dog can also become collar-wise if you are using the collar to stop misbehaviors. Here are some tips to prevent your dog from becoming collar-wise in this situation.

1. Have the dog get used to wearing the collar and to seeing you handle the transmitter a few days before you correct the dog for the first time.
2. Always put the collar on the dog at least 30 minutes before correcting the dog with it. Don't use the collar right after putting it on the dog or he will associate having it put on with the corrections he receives.
3. Remember that dogs are very sensitive and will pick up on minor things about your behavior. So when you put the collar on the dog at random times, use the same tone of voice and mannerisms if possible. Also, dogs can become transmitter-wise just as they can become collar-wise, so some times carry and handle the transmitter in the dog's presence without using it.

Some dogs who have been confused by collar corrections in the past can learn to feel inhibited simply by wearing a collar. They can become reluctant to leave their owner's side any time the collar is worn, even though they're never corrected. To make sure your dog doesn't feel this way about wearing the collar, use correct procedures for introducing it in training, such as those in the obedience program on *pages 26-34*.

Do not leave a Tri-Tronics collar on a dog all the time

The collar should not be left on the dog for more than ten hours at a time. Leaving a Tri-Tronics collar on a dog continuously can cause skin irritation (from rubbing). Inspect your dog's neck regularly; some dog's skin is more sensitive than other dog's, and more prone to become irritated. If irritation develops, leave the collar off the dog until the condition has cleared up. Consult your Owner's Manual for additional information.

Intensity Selection Tips

The correct intensity for training is normally one that will motivate the dog, but not overwhelm him. Dogs are like people in that they all have individual sensitivity levels. A dog's sensitivity level does not depend on his size, age or breed. So it's wise to test your dog to find the correct intensity level before you start training.

IMPORTANT: For best results when finding your dog's sensitivity, use continuous stimulation. If your transmitter has more than one button for continuous stimulation, use the button for the lowest level when finding your dog's sensitivity.

NOTE: If your dog overreacts (vocalizes or acts "rattled") when you use the lowest level of continuous stimulation that's available on your collar model, then retest for sensitivity starting with the lowest level of momentary stimulation if available on your model.

Finding the Lowest Intensity in Your Collar Model

To perform the sensitivity test, you should start with the lowest level of intensity and work up. How you achieve the "lowest level of intensity" depends on your collar model. Adjusting intensity generally includes two types of adjustment. First, there is an adjustment to the basic intensity of the collar, using an intensity dial located on the transmitter. Second, there are "low, medium, and high" levels of this basic intensity, achieved with different transmitter buttons. If you aren't sure of your model's features, check your Owner's Guide, or contact our Customer Service Department at support@tritonics.com or call 1-800-456-4343.

When you test your dog's physical sensitivity to stimulation, he should not be distracted by anything and you should not give him any command when you press the button. If he is distracted or trying to obey a command, you won't be able to accurately "read" his reactions to the mild stimulation.

Test Procedure

After setting your collar intensity at its lowest possible level, wait until your dog is not paying attention to you or to anything else. Then press the lowest possible continuous stimulation button. Watch the dog's expression. You want to see him make a very small motion, such as suddenly closing his mouth, blinking his eyes, cocking his ears, or tipping or turning his head. This tells you that the dog has felt the stimulation but is not overwhelmed by it. If you see no reaction at all in the dog, increase the intensity by one level and repeat the test. Work your way up through the different intensities until you find the one that makes your dog react as described. If your dog overreacts (vocalizes) when you press the button, or starts to act worried, you have selected a position that's probably too high for introductory training.

When to increase or decrease intensity

Note that different types of training call for different levels of intensity. You may wish to increase the intensity of stimulation during training if 1) the dog is not responding to the stimulation when he is distracted, 2) you use the momentary buttons instead of continuous for most of your training, 3) you are using the Remote Trainer to stop the dog when he is chasing something.

You may wish to decrease the intensity of stimulation during training if 1) the dog appears to be becoming concerned or anxious when you use the Remote Trainer, 2) you are training the dog when he is not very far away from you, especially when he is not distracted or excited, 3) the dog frequently overreacts (vocalizes) when he is corrected.

STOPPING MISBEHAVIORS

General pointers for stopping misbehaviors

Here are some pointers to keep in mind when you use a Remote Trainer to stop a dog's misbehaviors.

- 1. Consistency and correct timing are the keys to success.** Press the button the moment the dog makes the mistake. You want him to think he caused the correction by taking a particular action, and he cannot learn this if your corrections are too late.
- 2. Keep yourself "out of the picture" if you can.** You'd like the dog to think that he caused the correction by his own action. Therefore, it's best to say nothing as you correct him.
- 3. Choosing continuous or momentary stimulation.** For most problem solving, momentary stimulation is the best choice, although continuous will also work. To stop a dog from chasing something and for controlling excessive barking, continuous stimulation is preferable.
- 4. Remember, some misbehaviors are easier to prevent than change.** Maybe there is a way to remove the temptation and solve the problem. For example, if the dog steals the garbage, it might be easier to put the garbage where the dog can't get into it.

5. General obedience training can help dogs with behavior problems.

Obedience training (“Heel,” “Sit,” “Down,” “Stay,” “Come,” etc.) teaches your dog to respect you more. It teaches you how to communicate with your dog more effectively.

Also, many problem behaviors can often be traced to the dog having too much energy and no outlet for it. Regular obedience training sessions for just 20 minutes a day will give your dog a job to do and a chance to wear off excess energy; he will become a calmer and more welcome companion.

Jumping up

Dogs jump up because it leads to something they like – attention. Jumping up can be hard to cure if people around the dog are inconsistent about when they’ll allow it. Correcting the dog for jumping up won’t cure the problem if some family members or guests reward the dog for jumping up by giving him the attention he likes.

Obedience training is very helpful for dogs that like to jump up. When the dog wants to jump up, have him “Sit” instead. Then you can reward him with praise and attention for sitting instead of jumping up.

Lesson Plan to Stop Jumping Up

Set the intensity to the level you selected for your dog in the section, “Intensity Selection Tips” on *page 4*. Approach the dog and cause him to jump up. The instant the dog jumps up, press the stimulation button. You want the dog to associate the very beginning of the act of jumping up with the displeasure. Repeat this process every time the dog jumps up, until he stops trying. Repeat this lesson with other people in different places. Make sure the dog has no opportunities to jump up without a correction until he has gone for three days without trying to jump up, even though he has had the chance.

If after several corrections the dog does not seem at all discouraged from jumping up, raise the intensity by one level. Be careful not to increase the intensity too much or too quickly because using too strong an intensity for jumping up could cause the dog to be afraid of the person he jumps on. You can use this same method to stop a dog from jumping up on barriers like fences, patio doors, and screen doors.

Jumping Up – Summary of Steps

- Use a pre-selected level of intensity.
- Approach the dog and cause him to jump up.
- Press the stimulation button the instant the dog jumps up.
Good timing is important.
- Raise the intensity by one level if the dog is not responsive after several corrections.
- Repeat in several places with different people.
- Don't give the dog a chance to jump up without correcting him until he has gone for three days without trying to jump up.
- Use this same method to stop the dog from jumping on barriers.

Digging

Curing this problem is a challenge because dogs usually dig when they're bored and no one's around. When you're home and paying attention to your dog, you may not see him digging.

Lesson Plan to Stop Digging

Set the intensity to the level you selected for your dog in the section, "Intensity Selection Tips." Place the dog by himself in an area where he is likely to dig. Watch him, but don't let him know it. When he begins to dig, immediately press the stimulation button. If the dog does not respond to the correction, raise the intensity by one level. To cure the digger, you must catch him in the beginning of the act every time he digs. Expect to spend several days watching your dog closely. These days do not need to be consecutive, but when you cannot watch him, do not leave him where he can dig.

Continue to observe the dog for three days while he's in a place where he has the chance to dig. If the dog has gone for three days after the most recent correction without trying to dig, you can usually consider this training complete. Be prepared to repeat it if digging starts again.

Digging – Summary of Steps

- Use a pre-selected level of intensity.
- Leave the dog in an area where he likes to dig, and watch him without his knowing.
- Press the stimulation button the moment he starts to dig.
- If the dog ignores the correction, raise the intensity by one level.
- Continue the training process until the dog has gone for three days without trying to dig.
- During the training period, do not give the dog a chance to dig if you cannot correct him.

Chasing

A dog won't chase something he consistently finds unpleasant. You can use the Remote Trainer very effectively to cause the dog to associate strong displeasure with chasing. However, this training will generally discourage him from chasing only the particular thing you corrected him for chasing. For example, if you have corrected him for chasing cars, this will not carry over and prevent him from chasing cats. You must correct him for chasing each thing you don't want him to chase. If your dog already has a habit of chasing, breaking it might be difficult, because the excitement of chasing

brings him a great deal of pleasure. You must be careful to correct every chase once you start your training. You might need to do this many times before the dog will believe that chasing is always unpleasant.

The instinct to chase is very strong in some dogs and they may eventually regress and start chasing again. More corrections with the Remote Trainer may be needed.

Dogs usually require a higher level of intensity to stop chasing than for other problem behaviors because they're so excited when they're in hot pursuit. Bear in mind that your dog will be surprised by the correction, and you won't know which way he'll go when he breaks off the chase. So chase training requires care. Don't plan your chase training in an area where your dog could be hit by a car or be in danger because of other hazards.

If your dog has already been trained to come on command with the Remote Trainer, he will tend to want to return to you when you use the collar to correct him for chasing. Therefore, we recommend that you first train the dog to "Come" with the Remote Trainer before you begin using it to stop chasing. *(See pages 26-34.)*

If you are teaching "Come" in preparation for stopping chasing, gradually advance your dog's skill until you can use your command, with stimulation, if necessary, to call him away from very exciting distractions. Give the dog plenty of opportunities to learn that turning back towards you "turns off" the collar stimulation.

Keep in mind that a chasing dog is traveling fast. It may take some time for the dog to come off the chase. Don't set up a situation that allows the dog time to catch what he is chasing before he notices the correction.

Special Intensity Considerations for Stopping Chasing

Select an intensity level that is at least one level higher than the one you selected for your dog in the section "Intensity Selection Tips." (If you are stopping chasing inside the house, you may not need the higher level – just start with your dog's pre-selected level of intensity.) Some dogs are too excited when they chase to feel the lower levels. If you find that the dog ignores the correction the first time you use it, increase the intensity level again.

Lesson Plan to Stop Chasing

Set up a situation in which you know the dog will chase. As soon as he starts in pursuit, press the continuous stimulation button. Hold it down until the dog gives up his chase.

Remember that your continuous stimulation will "time out" (turn off automatically) after about 8 seconds. If your dog has not broken off the chase after a few seconds, release the button for one half second and then press it again so that the collar won't time out. You should press and release the continuous button in this fashion until the dog gives up his chase.

Chasing – Summary of Steps

- Train “Come” with the Remote Trainer before using it to stop chasing.
- Start with an intensity one level above your dog’s normal intensity level.
- Set up situations in safe areas that will cause the dog to chase; be ready to use the Remote Trainer as soon as a correction is needed.
- When the dog starts to chase, press and hold the continuous stimulation button until the dog stops chasing.
- If the dog doesn’t break off his chase after a few seconds, “pump” the continuous button.
- If the dog doesn’t respond to the correction, increase the intensity again.
- Repeat in several locations.
- During the training period, do not give the dog a chance to chase unless you can correct him with the Remote Trainer.

Destructive Chewing

Chewing is a natural and pleasurable activity for dogs. Before you begin training your dog not to chew things, give him some safe chew toys of his own. Encourage him to chew them, especially after correcting him for chewing the wrong things.

Lesson Plan to Stop Destructive Chewing

Set the intensity to the level you selected for your dog in the section “Intensity Selection Tips.”

Leave the dog in an area where there are items he’d like to chew but shouldn’t. Watch him, preferably without his realizing it. If people are present in the area, they should ignore the dog before and after the correction. The moment the dog begins to chew something he shouldn’t, press the stimulation button. If the dog does not respond to the correction, increase the intensity by one level.

During this training period, do not give the dog any opportunities to chew the wrong things unless you can correct him with the Remote Trainer. When you are not watching, confine him to an area with only his approved chew toys.

Observe the dog for three days after his most recent correction for chewing. During this period, always be prepared to correct him if he tries to chew what he shouldn’t. When the dog can go for three days without trying to chew the forbidden things, you can usually consider your training completed for this problem. Be prepared to repeat the training if chewing starts up again.

Destructive Chewing – Summary of Steps

- Interest the dog in chew toys of his own before you begin correcting him for chewing the wrong things.
- Use a pre-selected intensity level.
- Leave the dog in an area with things he'd like to chew but shouldn't and watch him.
- As soon as the dog starts to chew, press the stimulation button.
- If the dog ignores the correction, increase the intensity by one level.
- Continue the training process until the dog has gone for three days without trying to chew things he shouldn't.
- During the training period, don't give the dog a chance to chew things he shouldn't unless you can correct him with the Remote Trainer.
- Encourage the dog to chew his toys after correcting him for chewing the wrong things.

Jumping on furniture

Follow the same procedure used to stop digging. The dog should be by himself in an area with “off limits” furniture.

Lesson Plan to Stop Jumping on Furniture

Follow the procedure described to stop digging. The moment the dog starts to get up on the furniture, press the stimulation button.

If the dog does not respond to the correction, press and release the stimulation button several times. If he is still not responding after repetition, increase the intensity by one level.

Jumping on Furniture – Summary of Steps

- Use a pre-selected intensity level.
- Leave the dog in an area with furniture he likes to climb on, and watch him without his knowing.
- Press the stimulation button the moment the dog starts to get up on the furniture. If he does not respond, press and release it several times.
- If the dog ignores the correction, increase the intensity by one level.
- Continue the training process until the dog has gone for three days without trying to get on the furniture.
- During the training period, do not give the dog a chance to get on the furniture unless you can correct him with the Remote Trainer.

Eating What's Not Allowed

The Remote Trainer can be used to stop a dog from eating things he shouldn't. Using a Remote Trainer makes it easy for the dog to learn not to steal food, raid the garbage, or eat animal droppings, because you can make these things unpleasant to the dog.

Lesson Plan to Stop Eating What's Not Allowed

Follow the procedure described to stop digging. The moment the dog's mouth actually touches the temptation, press the stimulation button. If the dog does not respond to the correction, press and release the stimulation button several times. If he is still not responding after repetition, increase the intensity by one level.

Eating What's Not Allowed – Summary of Steps

- Use a pre-selected intensity level.
- Place the dog in an area with the appropriate temptation, and watch him.
- Press the stimulation button the instant his mouth actually touches the temptation. If he does not respond, press and release it several times.
- If the dog ignores the correction, increase the intensity by one level.
- Continue the training process until the dog has gone for three days without trying to go for the temptation.
- During the training period, do not give the dog a chance at the temptation unless you can correct him.

Controlling Barking

Barking is a strong instinctive behavior in dogs. Some dogs start barking almost without thinking, so it's not realistic to try to teach a dog never to bark.

However, you can teach him to be quiet on command, or in certain situations.

You can use the Remote Trainer to limit barking by training the dog to stop barking when he hears the word "Quiet!" (or another command of your choice).

Lesson Plan to Control Barking

Set the intensity to the level you selected for your dog in the section "Intensity Selection Tips."

Put the dog in a situation where you know he'll bark. When he begins to bark, give your command to be quiet in a stern voice and then press the continuous stimulation button. Release it a moment later.

Repeat this several times until the dog will stop barking when he hears the command to be quiet.

Repeat this procedure on different days. If possible, find various situations that cause the dog to bark. Sometimes do not give the command to be quiet; instead let the dog bark. In other words, don't correct every time the dog barks, but at this stage of training, always correct if you have given the command to be quiet.

If, by the end of your second training session, you find that the dog doesn't stop barking when you press the button, set the intensity to the next higher level. Repeat the procedure.

After a week of this training, don't press the button after the first time you give the command to stop barking. Instead, wait to see if the dog stops barking when he hears your command. Now, if he continues to bark after one such warning, repeat the command, and press the stimulation button.

Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter^{XS}

A Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter^{XS} is another way to control your dog's barking. It applies mild stimulation automatically when the dog barks, causing discomfort which he learns to associate with his own barking. The dog learns that he prevents this mild discomfort by not barking.



When the dog wears a Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter^{XS}, you don't have to get personally involved in correcting the dog for barking. The dog causes his own correction by barking. This consistent pattern makes it easy for him to learn not to bark while he is wearing the Bark Limiter^{XS}.

Some dogs should bark as a normal part of the work they do, such as hounds and protection dogs. For these dogs, it can be preferable to start no-bark training with a be-quiet command backed up with a Remote Trainer (*as described on page 18*), rather than with a Bark Limiter^{XS}.

Controlling Barking – Summary of Steps

- Use a pre-selected intensity level.
- Put the dog in a situation which will cause him to bark.
- Say "Quiet!" and press the continuous stimulation button. Release it a moment later.
- Repeat this several times in the first session.
- Repeat this lesson for a week, finding different things to cause barking. Do not correct every barking episode.
- If the dog isn't responding after two sessions, increase the intensity by one level.
- After a week of lessons, don't press the button at all with the first "Quiet!" command. Press the button only if you must repeat the command.

Aggression

Aggression in dogs has many causes. Social dominance, fearfulness, learned behavior, and physical problems, as well as other factors, can all be involved. In some cases, aggression can be successfully treated with a Remote Trainer, following the proper procedure. In other cases, however, correcting the aggressive dog with a Remote Trainer is not appropriate and will not be successful. Because the causes of aggression can be so varied and situations so unique, we recommend that you consult a knowledgeable professional dog trainer or animal behaviorist who has experience with aggressive dogs. We do not recommend that you use the Remote Trainer to treat your dog's aggression without first getting professional training help.

Choosing a Training Program

There are many ways to train a dog and many good training programs available. The basic obedience program we include here is one of many training methods that you can use to train your dog. By including specific features in the training program in this booklet, we don't mean to suggest that other training programs with different features are wrong. If you are training your dog for a special purpose such as hunting, field trials, or another special function, you might want to contact a trainer who specializes in that type of training and follow the trainer's recommendations on Remote Collar training.

If you are just getting started with Remote Collar training, it is not a good idea to mix procedures from several sources. Find one program that works for you and your dog and stick with it rather than "mixing and matching."

How Dogs Learn

Here are some basic guidelines that will help you whenever you use a Remote Trainer to work on obedience commands.

Use praise to let your dog know when he's done the correct thing.

Follow a step-by-step introduction process on each command. Don't assume that your dog will understand a Remote Trainer in connection with a command. The stimulus can confuse him initially, even if he knows the command.

Don't introduce remote training with too high of an intensity level.

Use a level that is just high enough to cause your dog to respond to it after repetition. Do not introduce the collar at so high a level that your dog becomes worried or is vocalizing. Instead, help the dog to learn what you want him to do. The intensity level of Tri-Tronics Remote Trainers can be adjusted for a wide range of breeds and temperament types. The section, "Intensity Selection Tips" on *page 4* explains how to select a level to begin training.

Don't introduce remote training around strong distractions. Keep things simple for your dog at first. He can't learn well when there's too much going on.

Do use distractions later, to train your dog to be reliable. Using a command in "real world" situations before a dog has been taught to be reliable can have disappointing results, because the dog will act confused. Some planned distraction training is the "bridge" that many dogs need.

When you add distractions, add them gradually. A confused dog can associate the stimulation with the distraction itself, instead of with his own failure to obey a command. Gradually increase training challenges in small steps so he can succeed. Avoid using distractions that scare a dog or make him so excited that he can't problem solve.

You might need a higher level of intensity when reinforcing commands around distractions. This is normal for most dogs. After your dog has been properly introduced to the Remote Trainer, don't be afraid to increase the intensity somewhat to help your dog learn that he must obey your commands even when he's distracted.

Keep your dog in "behavioral balance." Some commands call for the dog to move somewhere—like "Come." Other commands call for him to remain stationary—like "Sit." A dog that has become good at obeying one type of command with the Remote Trainer will tend to offer the same behavior even when given the opposite type of command. He isn't "being bad" when doing this, he's actually trying hard to do what you want. Follow a step-by-step program to teach him to obey both motion and stationary commands when you use your Remote Trainer.

Keep your dog's lessons short, and break lessons down into small sub-tasks. Dogs learn in very small steps, and they have short attention spans for formal training.

Be sure your dog can be successful in training. Dogs learn from their earlier successes. Sometimes you have to simplify things more than you thought you would before your dog can understand a lesson and be successful. Any time your dog seems confused, simplify the task and help the dog.

Be consistent. Be consistent in your training and in the standards you set for your dog's work.

Repetition is necessary for your dog to learn. He learns by association, and needs repetition to identify what to associate with what.

Concentrate on teaching your dog one thing at a time. He can't make the associations he needs if the lessons are too complicated for him.

As your dog advances, have play time as part of the training session. Use play within a training session to keep your dog enthusiastic as his skills progress. Both you and your dog should always look forward to training.



Obedience Program

This obedience program, covering “Coming When Called,” “Walking on a Loose Leash & Off-Leash” and “Sitting Quietly,” is also shown in the Product and Training Guide DVD, featuring Behesha Grist, owner of Extreme K-9 Remote Collar Training Academy.

Coming When Called

Before You Start

Your dog needs to know how to respond to the pull of a leash. Select the correct length contact points for his coat type and buckle the Remote Trainer on him correctly and snugly. (Both topics are covered in your Owner’s Guide.) You need a 6-foot leash and a 20-foot leash, rope, long line, or retractable leash. Your dog should be wearing a plain flat buckled collar in addition to his Remote Trainer. You need a low-distraction area for your dog’s first lessons. You need a helper available when the dog is ready for Step Four. (Dogs learn at different rates; some are ready for the helper in the first session, some not until a later session.) You need to choose one command that you will use when calling your dog. It should be a word that is different than just his name. “Come” and “Here” are two popular commands for calling a dog. Use the same word every time. If he already knows a command for coming when you call him, use that word.

Step One.

Clip your 6-foot leash to the dog’s flat buckled collar (not to the Remote Trainer collar strap). With the dog on leash, at the start of his first lesson and before giving any commands, test him to select the correct intensity level for starting his Remote Trainer work. This will be a very low level at first. See page 4 for the test procedure to use to find the dog’s level for starting training. Once you have selected the initial level based on your dog’s reaction, immediately begin Step Two. (Do not test him until you are ready to begin Step Two.) Do not test your dog again at the start of every training session.

Step Two.

While the dog is turned away from you, give your command to come at the same time you tap the stimulation button and tug gently on the leash to turn the dog toward you. Continue to command and tap as you help the dog with leash tugs until your dog makes the commitment to come to you. The length of time between commands should be no longer than one second. When you can see your dog is committed to coming, stop tapping and begin praising. You can also use helpful “body English” such as bending or squatting down to help attract your dog to you. Some dogs learn more quickly if you walk backwards away from the dog as you command and tap.

Once your dog has committed to coming and you have stopped tapping, encourage him to come the rest of the way to you with praise and, if needed, more guidance from the leash. Praise him enthusiastically when he gets all the way to you.

Walk the dog around the training area repeating Step Two many times.

Soon you will see your dog start turning and coming to you in response to your command and the taps of stimulation and you will need leash tugs less often. You will also see the dog start paying attention to you and trying to stay near you. Now he's ready for the next step.

Step Three.

Replace your 6-foot leash with your 20-foot rope, long line, or retractable leash ("long leash"). Now allow the dog to move farther from you, out to the full length of the long leash. Repeat the procedure in Step Two, giving commands with taps of stimulation. If he still needs help from the leash to turn and come towards you, continue giving this help. Stop the tapping when he commits to coming to you, praising gently. When he arrives, give him lots of praise.

If he comes only part way, then loses focus and stops coming, command and tap again as you help him come toward you with your long leash.

Repeat this procedure as you walk him around your training area. After repetition, you will see the dog responding to the first or second command and tap, often turning on his own when called and tapped without needing any leash tugs.

Soon you may notice your dog staying so close to you that you cannot give a repetition at the full length of the long leash any more. When you see this, your dog needs the assistance of a helper, described in Step Four. If your dog continues to wander to the end of the long leash, but is responsive to the command and tap so that you don't need to guide him with the leash each time, then move right on to Step Five.

Step Four.

Have a person your dog is comfortable with quietly keep the dog at a distance from you by holding onto the long leash near the dog's collar. The helper should not yet attempt to distract the dog, just hold on to him until you can get to the end of the long leash, and the helper should drop the leash when you give your "Come" command. Using the helper to hold the dog will help you give your dog more repetitions at the full length of the long leash.

The procedure is the same as in Step Three; give your commands together with taps of stimulation until the dog commits to coming toward you, then stop tapping and praise him. Guide the dog with gentle tugs of the leash and continue tapping on your collar any time he acts confused and does not come. Praise him enthusiastically when he arrives at you.

Your dog will need leash pressure less and less frequently. Soon, he will move toward you promptly as soon as you give your command and tap of stimulation.

Step Five.

Now your assistant should gently distract the dog by speaking to, and/or gently petting the dog while the dog is as far away from you as the length of the long leash permits. Give your command and collar taps (no more than one second apart) until the dog commits to coming to you. When you see your dog commit to coming, stop tapping and praise your dog. Most dogs need a little extra leash guidance during this initial phase of distraction. Remember to keep your commands and collar tapping consistent as you help your dog accomplish this task. He will learn more quickly with consistency.

When you see your dog consistently responding when you call and tap, and your need to use the leash is rare, your helper should gradually increase the distraction level, such as by squatting down next to the dog or moving around with the dog.

How to succeed with distractions: Distractions need to be at the right level for the dog to learn. If they are too strong, so that they scare the dog or overwhelm him with excitement, the dog cannot learn to solve the problem. The motto “dogs are individuals” applies when you use distractions to advance training skills, so observe your dog’s responses. Select distraction levels that give him a challenge but aren’t too much for him to deal with.

When to change stimulation intensity: After you begin distraction training, you will probably find you need to increase your stimulation level at some point. When you first introduce distractions from the helper, you should use leash guidance to help the dog instead of increasing intensity. After a few repetitions, if the dog is still not responding to the level that worked for him without distractions, then increase the level of intensity slightly. If the dog becomes worried or vocalizes frequently, lower your intensity level and give the dog more help with the leash. The level of distraction as well as the dog’s attitude can change, making an intensity level that was previously just right later become too much or too little. Such changes can also cause a dog to be more confused at times, even though the task looks like the same task to you. Be prepared to help the dog if he is having difficulty responding.

Step Six.

Continue your training repetitions, calling your dog away from stronger and stronger distractions. When the long leash remains slack most of the time because you don’t need to help the dog with it, hold the very end of it and let the rest of it drag. Repeat your training procedure on “Come” and see whether you ever need to take up the slack and help the dog as you call your dog away from distractions. The slack long leash is one of the transition steps to eliminating the long leash completely.

Step Seven.

When you no longer need to take up slack in the long leash, drop the end of it and let the dog drag it. Some dogs may initially lag a bit when they feel the leash dragging on the ground. A little “body English” (bending or squatting to encourage to the dog) can really help your dog understand and overcome any lagging due to the dragging leash. Continue your training repetitions with increasing distractions. If the dog becomes confused and doesn’t respond when you command and tap the stimulation, continue giving the command with taps of stimulation as you pick up the dragging long leash and use it to help the dog.

Step Eight.

When you no longer need to pick up the long leash and help the dog, replace it with a six foot leash again and let the leash drag. When the six foot leash is rarely, if ever needed, remove it from the dog’s flat collar and continue training without any leash.

Step Nine.

After your dog has completed the above steps and has become quick and reliable at responding to the command with the tap 90% of the time, he is ready for the next step. Begin giving the command without the tap. You should see no change in your dog's speed or reliability at responding to the command after this transition. However, if he needs a follow-up command because he didn't respond to the first one within about one second, always give the tap of stimulation together with your second command. Whenever you need to tap with a second command, give a tap again with the first command for the next three times you give that command. Then return to giving the tap only if he needs a second command and repeat the cycle. If your dog has been through this cycle several times, you might want to raise your stimulation level slightly.

How long should training take? Dogs are individuals and trainers' skills vary, so dogs learn at different rates. Some dogs, particularly those with a strong prior obedience foundation, might go through all the training steps on the command, as described in this booklet, in only two or three sessions. Many dogs take longer than this of course, and a dog might spend more than one session on training a single step. As your dog's trainer, you must "read" his reactions and decide how quickly he can progress.

"No progress" for an extended time is not normal. You should see some regular progress; don't practice "no progress at all" for session after session. This is not normal when training with Remote Trainers, because Remote Trainers are very effective tools and dogs learn quickly when trained correctly with them. If your dog makes no progress whatsoever in a session, probably

you need to change something about your training procedure.

If your dog seems confused for more than a few repetitions, backing up to an earlier step is a good idea. Also, the leash is there to help the dog. Be sure to use it if he seems confused, and remember to praise him enthusiastically. Your dog deserves to know when he has done well.

Coming When Called – Summary of Steps

- Choose the command you'll use. Put the dog on a 6-foot leash fastened to a plain buckled collar. Have a 20-foot long leash and helper available.
- Select the correct contact points, place the Remote Trainer on your dog correctly, and test for your dog's initial intensity level.
- The basic training procedure consists of giving the command repeatedly while rapidly tapping the stimulation. Stop the tapping when the dog starts toward you and praise. Praise enthusiastically when he gets to you. Help the dog come toward you by guiding him with leash tugs and your own "body English." At first you will be helping the dog in every repetition. As he progresses, he will need less help and you will see him respond most of the time without it.
- When first starting, the dog should be turned away from you when you start the basic training procedure.
- Repeat the basic training procedure many times in the first session.
- When the dog responds without leash help and tends to stay near you, replace the 6-foot leash with the 20-foot long leash. Repeat the basic training procedure.

- Have your helper hold the dog at a distance from you as you repeat the basic training procedure.
- Have your helper gently distract the dog as you repeat the basic training procedure.
- Gradually increase distractions. Progress until the dog rarely needs leash guidance to come to you when he hears the command and feels the tap.
- Repeat the basic training procedure around distractions, now holding only the very end of the long leash and leaving it slack. Use it only if needed.
- Repeat without holding the long leash, letting it drag on the ground. Use it only if needed. Replace the long leash with the 6-foot leash, letting it drag.
- Repeat with no long leash on the dog.
- When the dog responds quickly and reliably 90% of the time, stop tapping with the first command. Give the dog a chance to respond to the command alone. If, after about one second, a second command is needed, give a collar tap along with it.
- Review the discussions: “How to succeed with distractions,” “When to change intensity,” and “How long should training take?” above.

Walking on a Loose Leash; Walking Off-Leash

Before You Start

Your dog needs to have completed at least Steps One through Seven of the lessons on “Coming When Called.” You need a 6-foot leash and a plain buckle collar on your dog in addition to your Remote Trainer. You’ll need a helper available for initial work on distractions. Choose the command you will use when you want your dog to walk calmly at your side. “Heel” is the most popular command, but you can choose something else. You can use the same command you used for “Coming When Called” if you prefer.

Step One.

Clip your 6-foot leash to the dog’s flat buckled collar (not to the Remote Trainer collar strap). Since you have already trained “Coming When Called,” you will have already selected the correct intensity level for starting a Remote Trainer lesson with your dog. Since the dog will be close to you, you should start with a lower level than you used when calling him from a distance and away from distractions.

Step Two.

With the dog at your side, give the command you have chosen, and begin walking. As soon as the dog gets out in front of you, and before the leash tightens, repeat your command as you tap on the collar, while making a U-turn away from the dog. Continue giving the command with tapping until the dog commits to catching up with you. Use the 6-foot leash to help him catch up, keeping your walking pace consistent. When your dog arrives back at your side again stop tapping. Praise him and continue walking. Repeat.

With repetition, you will see your dog start to “catch himself.” He’ll slow down and look at you as he starts to get in front of you, and before the leash tightens. Praise him for doing this on his own. Now he’s ready for some distraction work.

Step Three.

Walk your dog back and forth past your helper. How close to walk depends on how easily distracted your dog is. Your helper should gently distract the dog by speaking to him, but not calling him. When your dog attempts to leave your side to approach the distraction and before the leash gets tight, give your command as you tap the collar. Turn away from the helper and continue giving the command with tapping until the dog catches up with you. Leash tugs will help the dog catch up. When he catches up with you and is at your side again stop tapping. Praise him enthusiastically and continue walking.

Repeat this process as your dog learns to ignore distractions and keeps walking with you. Gradually increase the level of distraction.

Step Four.

Make left and right turns. If your dog is distracted and misses seeing you turn, causing him to wander away from you, repeat your command with a tap of stimulation before you feel any tension on the leash. You should see your dog paying greater attention to your body’s movements, so that he stays with you even when you turn.

Step Five.

When you have successfully worked past distractions and the leash rarely, if ever, gets tight, drop it and let it drag. Reach down and use it, if needed, to help the dog come away from a strong distraction, while you give your command and tap the collar repeatedly until the dog commits to leaving the distraction.

Step Six.

If you want your dog to walk with you off leash as well as on a loose leash, remove the leash when the dog is reliable at Step Five. Your firm command and your Remote Trainer are the only reminders he’ll need to walk nicely with you.

Loose Leash and Off-Leash Walking – Summary of Steps

- The dog must have already completed most of the training on “Coming When Called.”
- Choose the command you’ll use, such as “Heel.” Put the dog on 6-foot leash fastened to a plain buckled collar. Have a helper available.
- With the dog at your side give your command and begin walking. The basic training procedure is as follows: If the dog gets out in front of you, and before the leash gets tight, repeat your command as you tap the stimulation and turn away from the dog. Use the leash to help him catch up. Stop tapping when he catches up, and then praise him.
- When you see the dog start to “catch himself” before he tightens the leash, have your helper add a low-level distraction. Repeat the basic training procedure.

- Add turns and stronger distractions, repeating the basic training procedure as needed.
- Let the leash drag and then remove it entirely, when the dog pays attention to where you walk, and has become reliable at responding to the command and the tap.
- Review the discussions: “How to succeed with distractions,” “When to change intensity,” and “How long should training take?” above.

Sitting Quietly

Before You Start

Your dog needs to have completed at least Steps One through Five of the lessons on “Coming When Called.” Your dog needs to understand how to put his rear on the ground when asked to do so. Food treats, leash or hand pressure, or any combination, can be an aid in helping him put his rear on the ground when asked. You need a 6-foot leash and a plain buckled collar on your dog in addition to your Remote Trainer. Choose the command you will use for sit. Most likely this will be “Sit.”

Step One.

Clip your 6-foot leash to the dog’s flat buckled collar (not to the Remote Trainer collar strap). Since you have already trained “Coming When Called,” you will have already selected the correct intensity level for starting a Remote Trainer lesson with your dog. Since the dog will be close to you, you should start with a lower level than you used when calling him away from distractions from a distance.

Step Two.

With the dog next to you and your leash held short, give your command to sit. Repeat the “Sit” command and tap the stimulation button as you guide the dog into the sit position using hand pressure on his rear applied just above the base of his tail. Stop tapping when his rear is on the ground and praise gently. If he tries to get back up, repeat the command and the tapping while helping with your leash and hand pressure until he sits back down, and praise softly.

Good timing helps dogs learn the “Sit” command, so stay right next to the dog and watch for any initial signs he is about to get up. These signs might be staring intently at something, fidgeting, or wiggling his rear end. If you see such signs, catch him before he gets all the way up by quickly giving the “Sit” command along with a tap on the collar. This timing will greatly help your dog learn that he is to sit and remain sitting until he is released.

Once again, dogs are individuals, so consider your dogs’ attention span and state of mind. If your dog is easily distracted, only require him to stay sitting for 5 or 10 seconds at first. If your dog is more calm and relaxed, you can require a longer sit. Gradually increase the length of time your dog must sit.

To start another repetition, heel your dog to a different place in the training area, giving a tap of stimulation with your “Come” or “Heel” command when you begin to move.

Step Three.

After the dog has learned to sit calmly for a minute or two with you next to him, take a slow step off to one side. He should remain sitting. If he moves to get up, respond immediately by repeating the “Sit” command while tapping the stimulation as you help him, using your leash and a guiding hand on his rear if needed. Continue this process until you can walk all the way around your dog and he remains sitting. After some repetition, he should sit in response to the command and tap, and not need to be helped with physical guidance.

At this stage, always return to your dog’s side, rather than calling him to you, when you are ready to move to a new place in the training area for another repetition of “Sit.”

When your dog sits when he hears the command and feels the tap of stimulation without needing your physical help, he’s ready for Step Four.

Step Four.

When the dog is sitting, gently tempt him to get up by tugging very lightly on your leash in a forward or sideways direction (not upwards). Be prompt to respond if he attempts to get up, repeating your “Sit” command while tapping with stimulation and praising gently when he sits. With repetition you will see the dog show his understanding by remaining sitting for gradually stronger tugs on his leash. You will soon see your dog bracing himself slightly so that the leash tugs cannot move him. Praise him for his commitment to obeying his “Sit” command.

Step Five.

Replace your 6-foot leash with your 20-foot long leash, and repeat Step three at increasingly longer distances as your dog shows understanding. Do not try to increase distance too quickly.

If your dog lies down when told to “Sit:” Do not let your dog lie down when told to sit or it can become a habit. Lying down is usually due to confusion and it can be easily stopped if addressed early. If your dog lies down instead of sitting in response to your “Sit” command, continue giving the “Sit” command as you tap the stimulation while you bring him back into the sitting position by lifting him with the leash, grasped close to his collar. Stop the tapping when he is sitting up. After he sits back up, make sure to put slack in the leash so that he holds the sitting position on his own and is not being held there by leash tension. Your dog may need a few repetitions to understand that lying down is not what you want. With some dogs, you can more easily get them up and out of their down position by taking one step with them as you command “Come” and give a tap of stimulation. As soon as the dog is on his feet, command “Sit” with stimulation taps as you help him to sit.

Summary of Training for Sit

- The dog should have already completed at least half the training on “Coming When Called.”
- Choose the command you'll use, such as “Sit.” Put the dog on a 6-foot leash fastened to a plain buckled collar.
- With the dog at your side and the leash held short, use the following basic training procedure: Give your command to sit repeatedly as you tap the stimulation and help the dog into a sitting position with hand pressure just above his tail and upward pressure with the leash (remember to keep the leash short). When the dog sits, stop tapping and praise softly. Watch him closely and repeat the basic training procedure if he starts to get up. Heel him to a new place in the training area for each new repetition of the basic training procedure, giving a tap of stimulation with the “Come” or “Heel” command as you lead him from his “Sit.”
- When the dog sits in response to the command and tap of stimulation without needing physical guidance from your hand or leash, begin distracting him by moving around him, starting with a single step to the side. Watch him closely and repeat your command with taps of stimulation whenever he starts to get up. Only help him physically if he needs it.
- Progress until you can walk around the dog without him getting up.
- Gently tug your dog's leash forward or to the side, which will tempt him to get up. Respond to any attempt to get up with another command to sit along with taps of stimulation. He will show understanding by staying seated while bracing slightly to resist the leash pressure. Praise him when he does this.

- Replace the 6-foot leash with the 20-foot long leash and repeat the step of walking around him as a distraction. Respond to any attempts to get up with repeated commands and taps of stimulation. Now he's ready for you to remove the long leash. Use your command and a tap from your Remote Trainer if he needs a reminder.
- Review the discussions: “How to succeed with distractions,” “When to change intensity,” and “How long should training take?” above.

Integrating the Release into Your Training on “Sit”

Adding a release word is an excellent way to help your dog remain upbeat and motivated while staying attentive to your commands. The release word tells the dog that he is no longer under any command and may play and “just be a dog.” It gives your dog a contrast with the mental concentration he uses when working on commands.

Release words you can choose could be “Free Dog!” “Release!” or anything that is not commonly said in everyday conversation. “Okay” is often said in everyday conversation and can confuse a dog that overhears it. Do not use “Good Dog” or other words you use for praise as your release word or your dog may be inclined to break his command every time you praise him. Keep your training as clear as possible to accelerate your dog's learning. Your dog will thank you for it!

You should start using the release in your “Sit” training after your dog is successful at Step Five, the leash tug step. (Before this time, use “Come” to

walk your dog out of his “Sit” when you want to begin a new repetition in a different part of your training area.) When your dog is ready, sometimes punctuate his practice on “Sit” with brief periods for a short break, which you begin by giving the release word. Since your dog will not know what the release word means at first, you can help him by using a high and enthusiastic tone and briskly moving with the dog as you say it. The release word is not a “command” so do not use any collar stimulation when saying it.

More Training Information

We hope this training material has been helpful to you. The basic obedience program in this guide is also presented in video form, in the Product and Training Guide DVD. This video, in DVD format, was included with your G2 Remote Trainer. It can also be ordered in VHS format by contacting Tri-Tronics at support@tritronics.com or by calling 1-800-456-4343.



