



# Invisible Fence

Brand  
by PetSafe.



»» Perfect Start™

P E T T R A I N I N G

Owner's Manual

800-578-DOGS (3647)

[www.invisiblefence.com](http://www.invisiblefence.com)

# Congratulations

You have just purchased the world's premier pet protection system, the Invisible Fence® Brand. The Invisible Fence Brand solution is backed with a one-year, money-back performance guarantee. The support of your Invisible Fence Brand Pet Expert gives you peace of mind that your pet remains safe at home. Refer to your warranty card or the back of your sales contract for complete details.

## Introduction to Perfect Start™ Pet Training

The Invisible Fence Brand is the leader in both training programs and product technology.

The Perfect Start Pet Training method is a great way to introduce your pet to their new Invisible Fence Brand system. The focus of the training is to teach pets their safe areas. The Perfect Start Pet Training method increases a pet's comfort level in learning their new boundary. This advanced training method provides advantages in the following areas:



### For Your Pet

- Pets learn through gentle discovery methods.
- Allows Invisible Fence Brand Pet Experts to identify pets that have pre-existing sensitivity to a myriad of factors, most importantly to tones and/or electronic collars.
- Training can begin with puppies as young as eight weeks old.
- Increases a pet's comfort level in small yards or tight corridors.


### For You


- Convenient for pet owners with time constraints.
- Ease of training during times of year with harsh weather conditions.
- Beneficial for pet owners who may have physical limitations in regards to training their pet.

## Why the Invisible Fence Brand Solution Works

The Invisible Fence Brand solution works for two key reasons:

1. It is consistent. It works whether you are present or not, day or night and regardless of the weather. To be consistent, the Power Cap® plan must be followed, the collar fit must be correct, and the transmitter and Computer Collar® unit must be working.
2. The cost of crossing the Invisible Boundary® must be higher than the reward on the other side. This involves setting a proper deterrent and making sure the pet has a reason to stay home.

 **NOTE: Invisible Fence Brand training works because of consistent reinforcement. If the reinforcement is removed (Not wearing the Computer Collar® unit or not renewing a Power Cap plan), the behavior will extinguish (pet will leave the yard). Therefore, the Power Cap plan is critical, as is keeping the Computer Collar unit on and fitted correctly.**



**Not putting the Computer Collar unit on your pet would be like choosing not to wear a seat belt or not putting your child in a car safety seat because you haven't had an accident in a long time.**



# Invisible Fence Brand® Computer Collar®

To work properly, the posts on the Invisible Fence® Brand Computer Collar unit must touch your pet's skin.

1. Position the Invisible Fence Brand Computer Collar Receiver high on your pet's neck with the Computer Collar unit under the lower jaw.
2. To avoid pets having a collar that is too tight on a thick-haired pet, thin some hair away to make skin contact with the posts. **DO NOT** shave your pet's neck.
3. Tighten the collar strap appropriately. Adjust the strap so it is snug enough to slide one finger between the post and your pet's neck.
4. The fit of the Invisible Fence Brand Computer Collar should be adjusted as necessary as your pet's coat, weight, and age change. Your pet's coat may change from season to season.
5. Allow your pet to become accustomed to the new Invisible Fence Brand Computer Collar. The collar strap should be removed each night during the first month of training and regularly thereafter. **When possible, the collar should be removed for some period of time everyday.** This ensures proper fit and avoids the possibility of skin irritation from the posts.

If this is not possible given your family's lifestyle, work with your Invisible Fence Brand Pet Expert to set up a plan to regularly check the collar fit.



# Perfect Start™ Pet Training Overview

Perfect Start Pet Training focuses on teaching your pet a new behavior. Most behavior changes are taught in steps or stages. Your Invisible Fence Brand Pet Safety Expert will assess the needs of your home and your pet to determine the number of lessons required to customize the training. Each lesson will have its own unique goal or goals.

## Key Objectives

Perfect Start Pet Training has three main objectives:

1. To teach your pet how the system turns “on and off.” Pets learn they can turn the system on and off by backing up or turning their head. The pet will quickly realize the flags are visual markers as to the location of the Invisible Boundary.
2. To teach your pet the exact location of his or her boundaries. The pet should be comfortable within inches of the Invisible Boundary.
3. To having your pet understand there is no reward worth crossing the Invisible Boundary. The result is a pet that resists all distractions.

## Pet – Owner Relationship

Perfect Start Pet Training has a very positive effect on the pet-owner relationship. It helps shorten a process that can sometimes be stressful for both you and your pet. By reducing stress, Perfect Start Pet Training enhances the relationship bond with your pet.



# Perfect Start™ Pet Training Method – Starting Indoors

When starting indoors, there are several goals the Invisible Fence® Brand Pet Expert will try to accomplish with your pet:

- Identifying the flags as boundary markers.
- Identifying the tone as a warning signal.
- Associating the tone with the deterrent.
- Knowing where the safe area is.

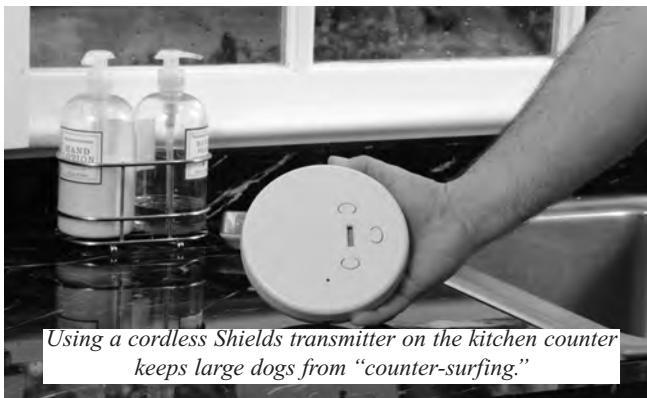
## Indoor Training – Tool for Teaching Outdoor Containment

The first step is to teach your pet how the system turns “on” and “off.” This can be done either indoors or outdoors. However, there are several advantages to starting indoors.

One of the key advantages is the work can be done off lead and your pet has the opportunity to train in a safe environment. Distractions are generally lower and more easily controlled. Weather and daylight are also not factors in training when working indoors.

## Selecting the Training Area

The first step in the training process is to evaluate the indoor living space for placement of the In-Home® transmitter unit (IFA-12 or Shields™).



*Using a cordless Shields transmitter on the kitchen counter keeps large dogs from “counter-surfing.”*



*IFA-12  
In-Home® Transmitter*

*Shields™  
In-Home® Transmitter*

The In-Home transmitter will be used to generate an Invisible Boundary near an area you want your pet to avoid. This should be an area where your pet is inclined to enter or frequent. It is also important that this area be easy and comfortable for your pet to be close to the Invisible Boundary.



*Keeping the dog from going upstairs is a common training area.*

Assist your Invisible Fence Brand Pet Expert in selecting the training area. Some examples of good indoor unit placement are locations that replace baby gates, keep a dog away from a cat litter box, food preparation areas, or blocking access to the front door.

## Placing Boundary Markers

Training flags will be used to mark the area of the Invisible Boundary. The flags allow your pet to see the Invisible Boundary. This helps your pet quickly learn the flags mark the Invisible Boundary.



## Introducing the Signal Field

Your Invisible Fence® Brand Pet Expert will introduce the Invisible Boundary® to your pet.

**Remember: This is an exercise that only the Invisible Fence Brand Pet Expert should perform.** Your focus will be on safe area training.

## Focus on the Safe Area

Once your pet is avoiding the Invisible Boundary regularly, the focus of the training lesson changes to teaching your pet exactly where it is safe.

Some safe area activities include practicing basic dog obedience homework (sit, down, stay, etc.) close to the boundary or playing recall games near the boundary.

## Indoor Training

At the end of this training phase, your Invisible Fence Brand Pet Safety Expert will assign some homework to reinforce the behavior. You will be asked to play with your pet near the Invisible Boundary.

Placing food dishes or beds close to the Invisible Boundary helps your pet learn where it is safe.

Door bells, family traffic patterns, and your pet's general curiosity will provide the only distraction training during this initial training period.



Let “real life” situations provide distractions and remember the importance of always being trustworthy to your pet. Your only focus should be on the safe area. Good leadership and a great relationship are built by always being trustworthy to your pet.



**TRAINING TIP:** If your puppy or dog is in a training class, practice your school homework close to the Invisible Boundary. Complete your obedience homework at the same time as your Invisible Fence Brand homework.

## Perfect Start™ Pet Training Method – Moving Outdoors

Once your pet has learned the appropriate behavior indoors, it is time to take the Perfect Start Pet Training method outdoors. Here, new behaviors will be taught and reinforced:

- Learning exactly where the boundaries are outdoors.
- Knowing where the safe area is.
- Learning to remain safely contained within the Invisible Boundary.

## Flagging the Yard

Once again, training flags will be used to mark the Invisible Boundary. The Invisible Fence Brand flags should stay up for about four weeks. After that time, every other flag can be removed every three to four days. Leave the flags at primary exit points

and the Invisible Gate® location until all other flags are removed. Your Invisible Fence



Brand Pet Expert will teach you and your pet the Invisible Gate ritual during training.



## Introducing the Outdoor Area

Once the entire yard has been flagged, the outdoor training phase begins. The outdoor phase is similar to the indoor phase. The main difference is your pet has a much larger area to learn where the boundaries are and there are more intense distractions outside. However, the same training method applies. Once again, your Invisible Fence® Brand Pet Expert will introduce the outdoor Invisible Boundary to your pet.

## Focus on Safe Areas

Once your pet is avoiding the outdoor Invisible Boundary regularly, the focus of the training phase changes to teaching the pet exactly where it is safe in the yard. Safe area training lets your pet know it has an abundance of room to run, play, and be safe.

One of the main advantages of Perfect Start™ Pet Training is that your pet clearly knows the exact location of the boundaries. He or she knows the whole area inside the boundary is safe.

The focus of safe area training is working close to the boundaries, so your pet knows the edges of his or her area.



## Homework – Outdoors

Your homework is similar to your indoor assignment but now includes working close to the boundary outdoors. Again, allow daily life to provide most distractions. ***Remember, your pet is still learning how the Invisible Fence Brand system works and is not fully trained. You still need to supervise your pet during this period.*** Work outdoors may just be petting and feeding your pet near the Invisible Boundary.

Every time your pet is outside, training is happening. Your pet is either learning where the safe areas are or where he or she should not go. Even if your pet is outside for a potty break, learning in the safe area is taking place. Remember, every training session should begin and end with play and praise.

## Perfect Start™ Pet Training Method – Final Phase

Based on the progress of the individual pet, the final phase of training includes learning and reinforcing the following behavior goals:

- Avoiding distractions.
- Learning to remain safely contained on a property when the existing fence is failing to keep the pet in.
- Learning to remain safely contained on a property when there is no additional fence barrier.

The Invisible Fence Brand Pet Expert wants to observe your pet when it is in high drive to verify that the deterrent level is high enough to counteract the pet's desire to leave the property under these circumstances. We want your pet to have a healthy respect and make the decision to ***“never do that again.”***



## Homework – Final Assignment

You will be following through with most of the training sessions. Take time now to review the training homework with your Invisible Fence® Brand Pet Expert.



Ninety-five percent of the time you spend with your pet outside during the training phase should be in the safe areas. This includes potty areas as well as play areas.

No more than five percent of the time should be spent showing your pet the boundary, especially exit points. As your pet makes correct choices, stopping when strongly tempted to cross the boundary, direct supervision can be reduced.

This process usually takes about three weeks on average, but varies with each situation.

## The Invisible Fence® Brand Goal

For over 35 years, the Invisible Fence Brand has kept millions of dogs and cats safe at home.

Thank you for allowing us to take on this responsibility for your pet. Our goal is to create a happy and safe environment for your pet, both indoors and outdoors. If you have any questions regarding your pet's training or your Invisible Fence Brand system, please contact your local Pet Expert for assistance. For assistance in locating your local Pet Expert, please use our locator service at [www.invisiblefence.com](http://www.invisiblefence.com) or call 800-578-3647.





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