Geofence Training Guide

Train The Trainer

All pet containment systems require a pet owner to train their dog to stay within set boundaries. Because no two dogs are alike, there is no specific "one size fits all" way to train a dog. Therefore, the pet owner needs to use a "what's best for my specific dog" approach. The training outlined here is a great place to start and is used today by many professional trainers. However, if you find that this approach does not work for your specific dog, you can research other methods of corrections training or ask your veterinarian for recommendations.

Generally speaking, dogs are reward seekers, meaning if there is a positive consequence to their actions, they will do more of the same behavior. Of course, the opposite is true with negative consequences. With that in mind, we have found it effective when training dogs with the Wagz Freedom Smart Dog Collar to have a few basics in place.

First, what is the reward? Treats and toys are the most common rewards given during any training exercise. Therefore, when training your dog with our geofence containment system be sure to have your rewards ready and have lots of them! We have also found it extremely helpful to use a common, repetitive phrase when rewarding your dog, such as "good girl/boy".

Second, what is the "punishment" or negative consequence of bad behavior? Of course, we are not suggesting anything like physical punishment, but a tug on a leash while learning boundaries and the famous "NO" command, when delivered sternly, can be considered the "punishment" and equally effective.

Third, when and where to train? Visual training aids for geofence boundaries are extremely helpful and effective for both you and your dog. One of the most common visuals for training your dog to stay within boundaries is the use of flags. By placing flags regularly around your property where the geofence boundaries are, your dog will learn to respect the boundaries. Once he learns the boundaries, you can gradually remove the flags little by little until they are all gone.

It will take multiple, repetitive training sessions a day over the course of some weeks until your dog understands the set boundaries, where the boundaries are located and what it means when they cross them.

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Introduction To Geofences

When training your pet to use geofence boundaries with the Wagz Freedom Smart Dog Collar there are a few steps that will help the process.

First, it is recommended that basic leash training is well understood between the trainer and pet.

Second, create and store the geofence boundaries in your Wagz App.
Keep in mind, you can create multiple, customizable geofence boundaries in your App. Geofence boundaries can also include forbidden Keep Out Zones, designating certain areas such as pools, decks, patios or gardens 'off-limits' to your dog.

Tips On Geofence Placement

- Consider GPS variability when setting up your geofence. We recommend each geofence be at least 40' x 40' to give your dog ample room to roam. It is recommended that when you create a geofence you add a 15 foot buffer from any house or structure. In addition, you should add a 15 foot buffer from your geofence to any road or hazard when feasible, to ensure the best accuracy possible.
- Geofence boundaries should be placed where there is a clear line of sight to the sky.
- Geofences perform best in areas with WiFi coverage rather than cellular only coverage.

If this is your dog's first training with boundary training in general, we recommend that you turn off all corrections in your Wagz App at the outset. The first training sessions will require a leash. The Wagz shock-free corrections (audible, ultrasonic, vibration) are introduced at a later point in the training.

Third, create your visual boundary. We recommend placing flags around your property, slightly inside of the geofence boundary line. Position the flags 3-6 feet apart, and ~5 feet inside where the actual geofence boundary is (to help to account for any GPS variations).

Now you can begin teaching your dog the geofence boundaries.

Geofence Training Guide

Geofence Boundary Training

With all forms of boundary training you will go through a few phases; In this section we will walk you through best practices for boundary training to include: (1) visual boundary training, (2) the addition of corrections and (3) training with distractions.

Let's start with the setting of each training session. We recommend having some simple playtime with your dog prior to each training session. This will help your dog to be interested in you as the trainer. Next, your dog should be wearing his or her favorite collar with the Wagz Freedom Smart device securely attached. A leash should also be attached before you begin the training. Please be sure all Wagz corrections are turned off if your dog has not learned the visual portion of the training.

Allow the pet to explore around the geofenced area (visually supported by the flags). As your dog gets within 6 feet of the boundary, give your version of the "NO" command and lead the dog back into the safe area. During the training make sure to reward and praise your pet for their good behavior of listening to your commands. Cover as much of the geofenced area as possible during the training session, but keep in mind that younger dogs have a shorter attention span and therefore, will not be able to train for long durations of time. It's for this reason that it is recommended to conduct trainings multiple times a day.

After a few training sessions or days you should turn ON the Wagz audible tone correction in the Wagz App. Continue the training as previously described with one change: As the audible tone is emitted from the Wagz Freedom Collar, lead your dog back into the safe zone. Once your dog learns to turn back into the safe zone when hearing the audible tone and without being tugged by the leash, be sure to give them praise and rewards.

The final portion of the training is adding in the vibration and/or ultrasonic corrections. We recommend you add one correction at a time to help your dog understand what they are. Continue with the training as stated above, and begin offering treats when they turn back into the safe zone after receiving the correction. While you may not be able to hear the vibration or the ultrasonic frequency, the audible tone goes off at the same time to help you know when to reward or lead them back into a safe zone.

After completing the corrections training, we suggest you try adding distractions. For this portion, a longer leash can be helpful. Start a training session as you have in the past, and after a few minutes of training, introduce a distraction outside of the geofenced area. Family members walking just outside of the boundary are a great first test. If your pet runs toward them but stops at the boundary line, praise and reward them. Additional distractions include tossing a toy out of the geofenced area.

If your dog attempts to go through a geofenced area, give the "NO" command and pull/lead your pet back into the safe area. Once they have returned inside of the geofence give them praise and rewards for returning.

If your dog goes through a geofence you will need to spend some time without distractions to reinforce the previous training.

Geofence Boundary Training (cont.)

With the above steps established, you can begin increasing the distance between flags. The most common way is to remove every other flag and repeat the training sessions for a few days to ensure your pet understands where the boundary is. Continue to increase the distance between flags until you feel comfortable removing all of them. Every dog is different, so distance and the time it takes to recognize the change will vary.

Geofence Shock-Free Correction Descriptions

Audible Tone
A brief ringing to notify the pet parent a correction has been issued.

Ultrasonic
Sound waves with a frequency above the upper limit of human hearing (i.e.dog whistle).

Vibration
A brief, periodic pattern of movement in a back-and-forth motion.

Corrections will automatically time out after one minute.
The reason is that after 1 minute of corrections the dog will have forgotten what he was being corrected for, so if the dog hasn't returned to the allowed area within that time, he is not going to suddenly figure it out. Therefore, we stop the corrections and preserve battery life for the tracking functions of the collar.