

A “REMOTE” POSSIBILITY

What is a remote collar?

To some people it is a horrid piece of equipment, strapped around the neck of your favorite canine, delivering a “shock” with each command. Nothing could be further from the truth! There is no “shock” involved at all.

When I decided to “test” the collars on my own, instead of listening to all the “positive” dog trainers tell me what they were - I was stunned by what I learned. I started my research on the internet, checking out all the remote trainers available and also checking all the remote collar sites. Two of the sites I researched were Fred Hassen’s No Limitations and Sit Means Sit sites.

Fred Hassen is considered to be an expert in the field of dog training with the remote collar. He developed a training method that is widely used - all over the world - by trainers who have been schooled at his No Limitations school in Las Vegas, Nevada.

So when a friend of mine told me she was having a seminar with Fred Hassen, I signed up. I decided that I would go with an open mind, listen, learn, ask lots of questions, and test the equipment. I also knew that there would be lots of people there with their canine’s and I would be able to see a wide assortment of dogs and their handlers using the remote collar. I was excited, and scared.

We started the seminar that day with everyone sitting on chairs with their dogs and the remote collar was passed to each person, a certified remote collar specialist held the control in her hands, and “dialed up the pressure” on each individual to see how much pressure they could handle. When it came my turn, I silently prayed “Please don’t let me scream or cry”. To my surprise, I could take more pressure than most and what I felt was definitely not a shock. How could this be?! All the “positive” trainers told me I would get a big jolt!

So, I purchased a Dogtra 1800 for my German Shepherd Dog - Maxi - and learned how to put the collar on correctly. There were several Certified Remote Collar Specialist on hand to help each and every one of us learn the proper use of the collar.

I was still shaking in my shoes, because my Maxi was a “reactive” dog and I was very concerned there could be a fight or (worse yet!) a bite. So I held onto the leash as tightly as possible. By afternoon, everyone had their dog “off-leash” but me. Fred came over and told me to “drop the leash”, so I shared with him my concerns. He didn’t push me to remove the leash, instead he took my Maxi, took off her leash and proceeded to do several demonstrations with my dog.

There was my Maxi - off leash - performing the commands like a pro! How could this be?

Maxi was a rescue from Camp Wolfgang in Garrett and I had only had her a couple of weeks. I had been working hard on getting Maxi just to have great manners, and here she was - doing all of this, OFF LEASH – and totally focused on Fred. She also was not screaming; yelping; or trying to flee - she was behaving like a well trained, obedient dog. To say I was shocked - is a huge understatement! So I talked with Fred about his school and the rest is history.

I am proud to call myself a Certified Remote Collar Specialist.

Consultations are free and very enlightening, you truly have to see it to believe it.

So to the “nay” sayers; and the “positive only” trainers and pet owners, I have to invite them to get out there and do their homework – learn something. Instead of believing aggressive dogs and dogs with mild to sever behavior problems are hopeless and “need to be put down” learn how to help these dogs; SAVE the dog! Quit trying to dazzle people with talk of “operant conditioning” and the “four quadrants of learning theory”, do something to help these dogs! You can’t train a dog with these behaviors with a clicker! But you can save the dog with the right tools in your bag. Personally, I love these kinds of dogs, I love seeing these dogs

become great pets right before my eyes during the demonstration. Nothing is more satisfying then knowing I can save these dogs and make them great companions.