

Bark Limiter

Tri-Tronics

Description:

Barking in some situations is acceptable or desirable, but too much barking or barking at the wrong time annoys you and those around you. It strains neighbor relations, leading to nuisance complaints and citations from municipal authorities. It stresses kennel personnel. Lastly, it puts undue stress on the dog as well.

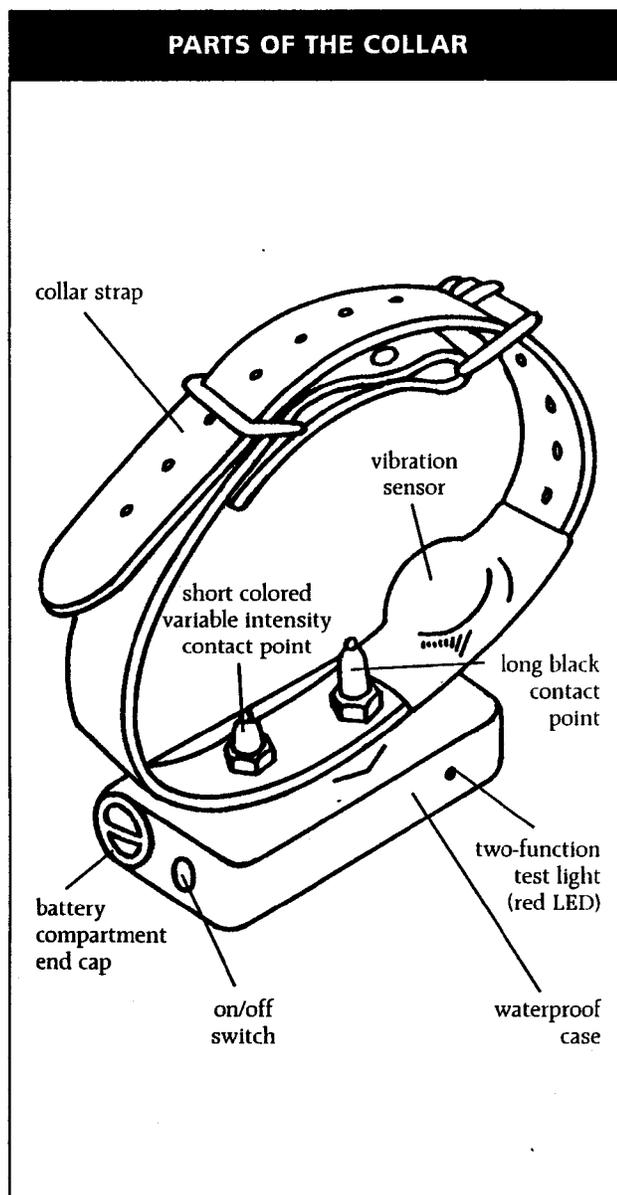
Excessive barking is a vicious cycle for your dog. Barking leads to stress which leads to barking, which leads to more stress, which leads to more barking, and so on. Excessive barking is often related to neurotic behaviors, destructive habits, phobias, and stress-related diseases in dogs. Kennels with pregnant or lactating bitches, veterinary hospitals with recuperating dogs, and boarding kennels with a high turnover of pets all suffer from this problem. Even calm dogs can pick up an excessive barking habit from the surrounding dogs in a kennel.

By controlling barking, a Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter reduces stress in dogs and reduces the undesirable behaviors that often accompany barking behaviors such as jumping over fences, pacing, and "fence fighting".

The Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter allows the dog to change his own barking behavior by using a method that is easy for the dog to learn and very acceptable to him. The Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter is equipped with a vibration sensor which senses when barking occurs, and instantly triggers safe, mild electrical stimulation automatically. The dog learns to associate this unpleasant sensation with his own act of barking. He quickly learns that he can prevent this discomfort by not barking at all.

Because the dog's own barking sets off the electrical stimulus, the dog's owner or trainer is not involved in any way. This eliminates the possibility of an inconsistent correction for barking. The Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter gives the dog the consistent learning environment he needs to make it easy for him to learn not to bark. Furthermore, he doesn't perceive his owner as the "bad guy" involved in the correction.

The Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter is "always on duty," regardless of circumstances. It's a highly effective method for the control of barking whenever the dog is wearing the collar. The dog stays calm and happy while he learns when it is appropriate to bark and when it is not. The Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter is the ideal solution for kennels, and veterinarian



facilities, and for anyone who owns a barking dog.

Standard Components:

Collar. The waterproof sealed case contains battery-powered electronics. The round, rubber covered disk on the collar strap is a vibration sensor. Electrical stimulation is applied briefly when the vibration sensor senses that the dog has barked.

The red LED on the collar has two functions:

1. It blinks once every two seconds when the collar is active.
2. It glows steadily when the collar delivers stimulation.

The case is mounted on an adjustable collar strap which fits neck sizes 7" through 21".

Contact Points:

Black Contact Points. Two black contact points are included, one short and one long. Only one black point is used in the collar (together with one colored point to control intensity.) We ship the Bark Limiter with uneven height contact points installed because we have determined that this results in a more comfortable fit for the dog. The short black point is included so you may substitute it for the long black point if you desire two contact points of equal height.

The Bark Limiter comes with the following standard components:

Colored (Variable intensity) Contact Points. The four colored contact points are "variable intensity contact points." They affect the strength of the electrical stimulation. They are: Level #1/2: blue; Level #1: brown; Level #2: red; Level #3: orange. The variable intensity contact points have male threads, and the black contact points have female threads, so they can't be installed in the wrong locations.

Contact Point Wrench. This plastic tool is used to unscrew the contact points from the collar and attach other contact points. Use this wrench to check the tightness of the contact points before each use. The contact points must be more than finger-tight. Use only the contact point wrench to tighten the contact points.

The contact point wrench should also be used to remove or tighten the battery compartment cap.

Owner's Video Guide. This instructional video makes learning to use the Bark Limiter easy and convenient.

Owner's Manual & Training Instructions. This booklet provides detailed information about the Bark Limiter.

Batteries:

The Bark Limiter uses two CR123A, or equivalent, 3-volt lithium batteries (purchased separately.) Lithium batteries are available at camera supply stores and other retail outlets.

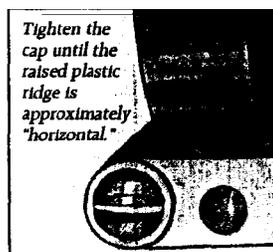
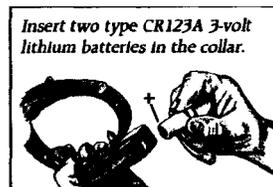
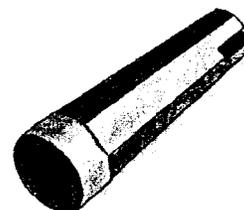
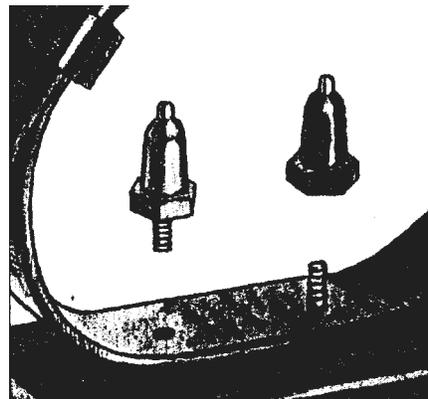
Installing the Batteries. To install the two 3-volt lithium batteries in the collar unit, unscrew the battery compartment cap with the contact point wrench. Slide the batteries, positive end first, into the compartment, as shown in the illustration. Make sure that the O-ring is seated properly where the threads stop at the base of the battery compartment cap. Then screw the cap back on. Tighten it with the contact point wrench.

Tighten the cap until the raised plastic ridge is approximately "horizontal," as shown in the illustration.

Inspect the rubber O-ring on the end cap every time you change batteries. Make sure the O-ring is still there and is not cracked.

Battery Life. The lithium batteries in the collar will last about six months, depending upon use.

Note: The collar drains the batteries when it is turned on (when the red LED is blinking.) To conserve the batteries, always turn the collar off when it's not in use. If you won't be using the Bark Limiter for several months, you should remove the batteries.



The O-ring that seals the battery compartment should be seated properly and not cracked or worn.



Using The Bark Limiter:

Low Level Method. The Bark Limiter is shipped with the lowest level (blue) contact point installed, because all dogs should start with this level. They should start with blue even if they're already used to other bark collars, and have needed higher levels in them. The Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter works somewhat differently than other bark collars you may have tried.

The section "Introducing the Collar" (below) describes the Low Level Method we recommend for best results with all dogs. The Low Level Method identifies the minimum stimulation needed to cause each dog to control his own barking. It avoids the use of higher levels of stimulation than necessary. We've found that dogs introduced this way to the Bark Limiter become quiet more quickly and bark less in the long run than when higher levels are used.

Uneven Height Contact Points. One short and one long contact point are installed on the Bark Limiter when it is shipped. We have determined that using one short and one long contact point on bark collars results in a more comfortable fit for the dog.

The short black contact point may be substituted for the long black contact point if you desire contact points of the same length.

Positioning. Position the Bark Limiter collar strap near the top of the dog's neck with the strap right behind his ears. When you place the collar properly on the dog with the LED facing forward, it will be easier to see it flash.

Tightness. Bark Limiters must be on snug to work. Otherwise, the vibration sensor may not sense every bark, and the collar will not perform consistently.

Inconsistency makes it hard for the dog to learn to modify his own barking habits.

Tighten the collar by holding the buckle with the forefinger and thumb of one hand while you draw the strap tight with the other hand.

Don't put your fingers under the strap as you tighten it. If your dog is small and you don't plan to use the collar on a larger dog, you can cut off the excess strap material.

Activating the Collar. After the collar is on the dog, press the small round switch on the side until it clicks. A red LED will flash once every two seconds when the collar is active. Press again to deactivate.

Introducing the Collar With the Low Level Method.

Step 1. The 30-minute test. Start with the lowest level contact point. This is the blue point. Leave the dog in a situation which will cause him to bark, and where you can observe him. Give him at least 30 minutes of experience with the Bark Limiter using the blue contact point.

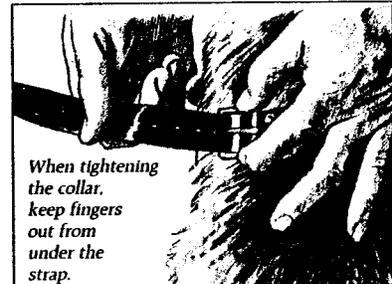
Remember, "experience" means that the dog found reasons to bark during the testing period and began barking at least several times. If there is little or nothing to stimulate the dog to bark, it may take more than 30 minutes of actual elapsed time for the dog to have the necessary experience with the collar.

Step 2. Check collar tightness five minutes into the test.

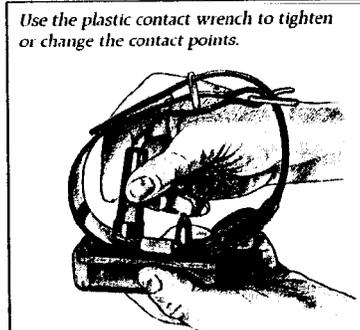
If your dog continues to bark after five minutes of wearing the Bark Limiter, check the tightness of the strap. If it's not very snug, tighten it one notch, especially on dogs with heavy coats. The Bark Limiter may become looser after a few minutes on the dog, as the coat flattens. '

Step 3. Increase intensity at 10-minute intervals. If the dog does not stop barking after a minimum of 30 minutes with the blue contact point, remove the collar and replace the blue contact point with the brown one. Repeat the test, giving the dog 10 minutes of experience trying to bark with the brown contact point. If he continues to bark after 10 minutes of experience with the brown point, replace it with the red point. Continue to increase the contact point one level for every 10 minutes of barking experience, until you observe the dog changing his barking pattern and stop barking.

Higher Intensity Contact Points. Two levels of higher intensity contact points are available for the rare dog that won't stop barking on lower levels, Yellow (#4) and Green (#5). Call Tri-Tronics at 1-800-456-4343 for



When tightening the collar, keep fingers out from under the strap.



Use the plastic contact wrench to tighten or change the contact points.

the dealer nearest you.

About Skin Irritation:

Dogs, being individuals, are all different. Some dogs have unusually sensitive skin and are more prone to skin irritation than other dogs. This irritation can result from contact points rubbing the dog's skin.

Inspect the dog's neck daily for signs of redness or what looks like a rash. Temporarily discontinue use of the Bark Limiter if you see irritation developing. Here are some more tips to avoid skin irritation.

1. Don't leave a Bark Limiter continuously on a dog. Don't leave it on for longer than eight hours at a time without moving the collar to a different position on his neck.
2. Don't shave the neck. If the dog has a heavy coat and the sensor is not making good contact, you may use scissors to shorten some of his hair where the sensor will rest, but don't clip the neck with clippers. Before you cut his hair, first try wiggling the collar up and down after buckling the strap. This will "seat it" through his coat for better contact.
3. Reposition the collar. Put the collar on the dog in different positions each time it is used. Sometimes position it so the contact points rest on one side of the dog's neck, sometimes up on the other side, or place it higher or lower on the dog's neck.
4. Avoid using a Bark Limiter on a wet dog. Being wet will increase the chances of skin irritation developing.

Care and Cleaning:

A little care can extend the life of your Bark Limiter and reduce service costs.

Battery Life: Avoid leaving the collar in very warm areas (such as in a closed automobile in the sun) for long periods. If you will not be using the Bark Limiter for several months, remove the batteries.

Dirt and Corrosion: Outdoor conditions can be harsh on the surfaces of the collar. After exposure to brackish, salt or alkaline water, wash the collar with clean drinking water and use a small brush to remove any foreign materials, particularly around the contact points, the on/off switch, and the battery compartment end cap. Do not use acids, alkalis, solvents or abrasive tools for cleaning.

Note: Certain dog-related products may contain chemicals that cause harm to the collar. We recommend that the collar be removed when chemicals such as tick dip and flea spray are in use.

Contact Point Tightness: inspect the contact points for tightness each time you put the collar on your dog. If the points need tightening, use the contact point wrench that comes with the Bark Limiter.

Collar straps can be easily replaced by the user when they become worn.

Battery Compartment Seal: A good O-ring in the collar battery cap is very important! If the O-ring becomes cracked, worn or missing, moisture can enter the battery compartment and cause damage. Inspect the O-ring for signs of cracking, and replace it if needed.

Whenever you install new batteries in your collar, make sure that the O-ring is still present, and that it's in good condition.

Product Safety:

Clinical animal safety studies have been designed and conducted for Tri-Tronics by veterinarians and physiologists at a major university. The scientific studies tested for possible cardiopulmonary and epidermal effects of Tri-Tronics' electrical stimulation applied to the ventral surface of the neck of healthy dogs. These studies showed that there were no clinically significant changes in electrocardiograms, blood pressures, or properties of the skin underlying the contact points.

The clinical investigations involved parameters of electrical stimulation (e.g., maximum output voltage, output impedance, current density, and repetition rate) that were basically the same as those of the Bark Limiter. The safety of the Bark Limiter is strongly supported by the scientific, clinical data.

Tri-Tronics Bark Limiters have an independent circuit in the collar designed to inhibit excessive electrical stimulation. Like all other parts of our products, these safety circuits receive special attention in Tri-Tronics' environmental, reliability, and quality analysis.

To guard against skin irritation due to rubbing, inspect the dog's neck at least once a day, especially in the early stages of use. The possibility that irritation will occur, although small,

increases with the length of time the collar is on the dog. Read "About Skin Irritation" in the manual.

Note: Even though Tri-Tronics products are safe, they are intended for use only on healthy dogs. It is always wise to have your dog checked by a veterinarian before any type of training.

Battery Disposal:

Each Bark Limiter uses two lithium batteries. We at Tri-Tronics are concerned about environmental issues, so please dispose of these batteries in accordance with state and local regulations.

Troubleshooting Guide:

The Bark Limiter should require little service if properly maintained. In addition, many usage problems can be avoided by selection of proper contact points and correct collar tightness.

If you do have problems, however, check this troubleshooting guide before sending your unit in for service. You could save yourself time and repair costs. Our Customer Service Representatives are also available toll free at 1-800-456-4343, and are happy to assist you.

Problem #1: The LED lights up, but the collar doesn't seem to work on the dog.

1. The collar strap is not tight enough to provide consistent contact. The collar must be snug for the vibration sensor to pick up the dog's bark. Try tightening the collar strap.
2. There is too much hair between the skin and the sensor. A thick coat may muffle the vibrations. Try parting the hair where the sensor will rest. Sometimes it is necessary to trim off some hair with scissors where the sensor will rest (avoid shaving the area with clippers, as skin irritation can result).
3. The collar is not positioned correctly. Position the collar on the dog so that the sensor is on the underside of the neck. It does not matter if the contact points are not positioned in the exact center of the neck.
4. The recommended intensity selection procedure should be followed. Follow the procedure for intensity selection. Be sure to select the intensity level that will cause your dog to choose not to bark.

Note: Your dog may not have any visible reaction to the Bark Limiter, other than choosing not to bark. If, however, he is continuing to bark after 30 minutes, try increasing the variable intensity contact point by one level. Continue increasing until he chooses not to bark. Two higher-level contact points are available for dogs that will not stop barking on the #3 variable intensity contact point.

Problem #2: No stimulation--the collar won't cause the LED to glow steadily.

The batteries in the collar need replacing. When the batteries get low, intermittent operation can result. Follow the recommendations about batteries.

Problem #3: The red LED on the collar doesn't light at all.

1. The collar is not turned on. Press the round switch on the side of the collar until it clicks. You should see the LED begin to flash once every two seconds.
2. The batteries in the collar are missing, are installed backwards, are the wrong type, or are fully discharged. Follow the recommendations about batteries.

Note: In bright daylight, the LED may be difficult to see, you may just think it's not lit. Try shading it with your hand.

If you've followed all the above steps, and the problem seems to persist, your unit needs service. Call our Customer Service Department at 1-800-456-4343.