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SOME ADVICE ON CITRONELLA NO-BARK COLLARS

By Adam G. Katz

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Dear Adam:

I have a client who has just adopted a dog. The dog is adjusting to its new apt., but is barking a bit when the owner leaves. A friend of hers has lent a citronella collar for her to try.

My question is: Is there any health concerns with using the collar in terms of the spray getting in the eyes or lungs?

I would love to hear about peoples experiences with the collars whether they are negative or positive.

Thank you in advance!!

-RD.

Dear RD:

They have a tendency to jam up. Not to mention run out of spray. And-- although it probably won't kill the dog-- who knows what spraying that stuff in their eyes and nose will do over a long-term period of time.

Ideally, the dog would only need to be sprayed once or twice and then he'd learn to never bark while wearing the collar. But everyone I know seems to go through the refill spray bottles like a worm eats through a discarded balogna sandwich. And this would suggest that the correction from the spray is only motivational enough to get the dog to cease the current exhibition of the behavior, but is not motivational enough to make him remember to not do it later.

I recommend the Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter. It's a quality product (it gives the dog a mild shock when he barks) and it works very well. Try a web search on google.com.

Good luck,
Adam.

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P.S. If you've already got the Citronella collar... go ahead and try it and see if it works for you. It's not going to kill the dog overnight. ;-) And you may just get lucky and find that one or two sprays will be all that you need to curb the behavior... if your dog has a fairly soft temperament to begin with.

To read more of my dog training ramblings, read about my book (click below): <http://tinyurl.com/4efaq>
Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer!

Author, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer!" which you can read more about at:<http://tinyurl.com/4efaq>

Dog Barks When Left Alone

By Adam Katz

Please let me know if you have any suggestions to help curb a barking problem when we are not home. Our 2 year-old Shepherd/Chow mix rarely barks when we are home, but when we leave her in her nice pen outdoors when we are gone she yips and barks. We have tried stuffed animals and kong toy with food inside. Do we need to get a bark collar? Any other suggestions or info on the collars would be appreciated.

Thank you, Beth Nordstrom

Dear Beth:

First, I would try to figure out what is causing the dog to bark. It may be nothing more than nuisance barking. In which case, a bark collar would work best.

But I'd first rule out all other factors, such as:

- A neighbor's kid who may be taunting your dog.
- Lack of exercise/stimulation.
- Throwing a toy outside of the pen and then barking in an attempt to "make it come back"
- Any number of other factors that could be eliminated before dropping \$100 on a bark collar.

I don't know what type of exercise regimen you've got your dog on now, but it probably wouldn't hurt to buy a bicycle and start taking your dog for long runs. (It's good for you, too!)

As for which bark collars to use... the ones that I've had the most success with are the Tri-Tronics Bark Limiter. I've tried the cheap yellow ones they sell at the pet stores and have found them to be poorly engineered, consistently over or under-correcting your dog, and resetting themselves too quickly.

The citronella collars are largely a joke. They get clogged and jam frequently. The citronella runs out.

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Plus, I'm not crazy about spraying the stuff in your dog's eyes.

That's all for now, folks! Adam

Adam G. Katz is the author of the book, "Secrets of a Professional Dog Trainer: An Insider's Guide To The Most Jealously Guarded Dog Training Secrets In History." Get a free copy of his report "Games To Play With Your Dog" when you sign up for his free weekly dog training tips e-zine at:



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