



SPOT  ON™

VIRTUAL SMART FENCE

TRAINING PLAN C

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Welcome to the SpotOn™ Virtual Smart Fence System

The SpotOn™ Virtual Smart Fence System is the first invisible “fence” that works as well at home as it does on the go. Whether you are planning to use it in the backyard or the backwoods, SpotOn is committed to providing reliable options for training your dog the way that works best for *both of you*. This is why both collar and training program have been carefully developed hand-in-hand with professional dog trainers.

At SpotOn, we believe any time invested in training your dog is time well spent—resulting in an overall better partnership with your dog, which means less frustration and less stress for both of you.

About Training Plan C

This training program is an abridged version of the original SpotOn training platform. This platform is for dogs who have been deemed more advanced in training, those without fears, phobias, or anxiety issues; or for owners who need their dogs to be trained to stay within containment in a short amount of time.

Training plan C will allow you to achieve the goal of reliably keeping your dog inside of a virtual fence in a short amount of time. This plan is meant for dogs and owners who have put the time and effort into doing basic or advanced training. This training program will also work with dogs who have proven to be “stubborn” or “difficult to train”.

Glossary of Terminology

- **Alert Tone:** The bright, chirping tone on your collar. Your dog will be trained so that when they hear this tone, they return to the center of the Fence Area.
- **Reward Marker:** A consistent sound that tells your dog that they are doing something correctly. For this training, the Reward Marker will be the word “yes.”
- **Static Contact Points:** Stainless steel probes which contact the pet’s skin and deliver a static correction, if static correction feature is enabled
- **Warning Tone:** The buzzing tone on your collar. This warns your dog he is about to cross the Boundary Line.
- **Boundary Line:** The outer limit of a Fence Area. If your dog crosses the Boundary Line, they will receive a static correction.
- **Proofing:** Training in a variety of exciting situations so that your dog learns to work through distractions.
- **Repetitions (Reps):** The number of times a specific exercise is performed
- **Set:** The number of cycles of reps that are completed.
- **Static correction:** A mild, harmless electric stimulation that is intended to garner your dog’s attention and disrupt their behavior. Thus, allowing you to train an alternative, behavior that can be reinforced.
- **Target:** The flat white square in your collar box. This will be used for your reference when setting up Portable Fence Areas and Circular Fences.

Materials needed

- Flags: (recommendation 50)
- A 6-foot leash
- A Long leash (recommendation 15 or 30 feet)
- Treats: (Your goal throughout training is to be able to reinforce with many treats without the dog becoming full. In order to do this, treats should be about the size of your pinkie fingernail. If your dog is picky, you may wish to vary the type of treat you use in order to keep his motivation high.)

Training Exercises

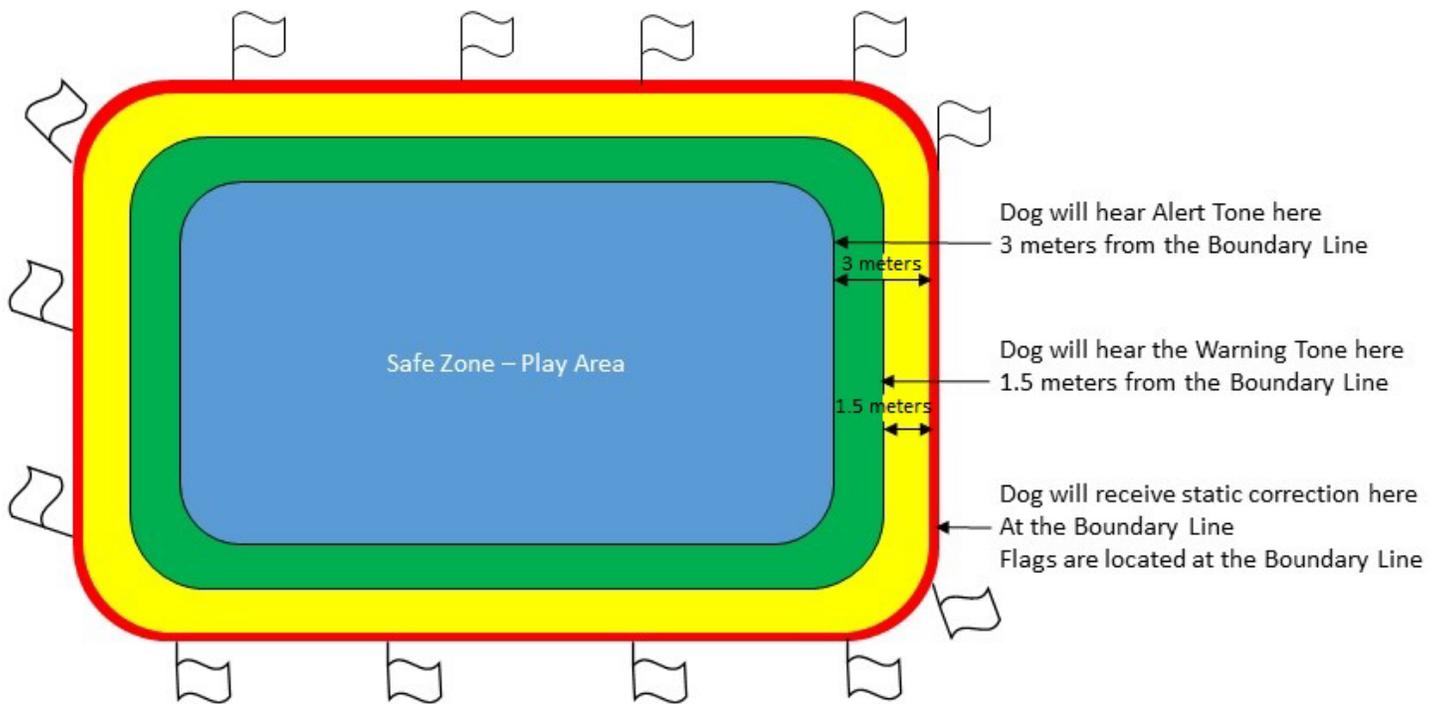
Exercise C1: Creating a Virtual Smart Fence (Day 1)

1. Place the flags in the ground along the perimeter of your yard where you'd like your dog to stay.
2. On the **Home Screen**, press the left navigation button to select "Create Map."
3. Following the instructions on the collar, go outside, holding the collar with the GPS antenna at shoulder height, and wait for it to acquire a GPS signal. In an area with no obstructions (i.e. buildings, trees, etc.) this process normally takes less than 60 seconds. When the collar has acquired satellite connection, the letters GPS will appear in green at the top-center of the collar's display screen.
4. From the collar menu, press the right navigation button to select "Custom."
5. While holding the collar at a comfortable chest height and GPS antenna facing up, walk a path around the area in your yard where you'd like your dog to stay, using the flags as your guide.
 - a. At any time, should you choose to cross a physical, barrier like a stream, you may activate the "Pause" feature of the collar by selecting "Pause", then walking to your next flag point and selecting "Resume". Doing this will draw a straight line between the point where you paused the system and the point where you resumed.
6. When you've closed a perimeter by returning to your starting point, press the right navigation button to select "End" from the collar's menu.
7. The collar will prompt you to save the map. Press the right navigation button to select "Yes" and save your map to the Smart Collar's memory.
8. Activate your fence either through the app, or through the selection screens on your collar. Select "Activate/Delete Map", and choose the corresponding map with the fence that you just made and choosing "ACTIVATE."

Helpful Hints:

- Make a note of which flag you started with. Come close to the point at which you began walking the Boundary Line, without passing that first flag before closing the fence.
- If your Virtual Smart Fence Area is large, consider adding several targets to the area to offer the dog an easy choice. Our recommendation is one target for every 1/2 acre.
- Note that when you snap the Boundary Line closed, it will draw a straight line from the point where you hit "end" to the point where you began walking the Boundary Line. Please double check your map on the app to make sure you haven't inadvertently created a conflicting barrier. You can also walk from inside the Fence Area to the Boundary Line and verify the tones occur as appropriate.
- Your collar is automatically set to issue an Alert Tone 3 meters (approximately 10 feet) before your dog reaches the Boundary Line and a Warning Tone at 1.5 meters (5 feet) from the Boundary Line.

Schedule: Depending on the size and terrain of the property, approximately 30 minutes-1 hour.



Note: Navigation systems, (like GPS), use a combination of satellite signals and geometry to determine your position. They typically require a minimum of 4 satellites before a position will be calculated. At any point during the day the number of satellites (up to 24), satellite geometry and the local environment can impact the location accuracy, causing variations in the reported position. The SpotOn Virtual Smart Fence System minimizes these variations by using 3 navigation constellations (GPS, GLONASS, Galileo) and a minimum of 8 satellites at any given time. This is more accurate than your car GPS and the GPS feature on your smart phone. Because of the variation (which exists with all navigation systems), you may notice that the location of your Virtual Smart Fence varies by a few feet from time to time. Variations can be as great as 10 feet, but are typically much less.

Exercise C2: Training Your Dog to the Virtual Fence Area (Days 1-2)

The goal of this step is to familiarize your dog with the Boundary Line of the Fence Area that you created in Exercise C1.

1. Activate the app and turn the Correction Level to "0" or "off".
2. Take your dog to the Fence Area that you created in Exercise C1 and activate the fence map that corresponds with to the location that you are working in. Fit the collar around your dog's neck.
3. With your dog on a 6-foot leash (attached to his regular collar) and with the Static Correction feature turned off, slowly walk your dog to each flag. When you hear the Alert Tone, break into a game of play with your dog or offer him a treat, making sure to direct the reward or play session toward the middle of the Fence Area.

4. Continue around the perimeter of the fence, initiating the Alert Tone at each flag. Each time the Alert Tone is initiated, break into a game or offer your dog praise or a treat.
5. Once your dog is looking to you for a game or treat with 85-90% proficiency when he hears the Alert Tone, it is time to move onto the next step.

Helpful Tips:

- Proper fit is essential. The collar should be snug around your dog's neck, but not too snug. It should be just loose enough to fit two fingers between the collar and your dog's neck. For best results, the collar should be positioned so that the display is facing the ground and the GPS antenna is facing the sky. The collar should not spin or rotate, even when your dog is in motion.
- Not sure if your dog is hearing the Alert Tone? Use the flags as a guide to help determine if your dog has triggered the Alert Tone.
- Always be sure to initiate a game or reinforce your dog with praise or a treat in the center of the Fence Area. This will give your dog the idea that they should move in toward the center of your property when they hear the Alert Tone, not linger close to the Boundary Line.

Schedule:

- Two 20-minute sessions per day of training the Fence Area.

Exercise C3: Training the Warning Tone & Boundary Line (Days 3-5)

Our goal in this step is to teach the dog that there are consequences for moving beyond the Alert Tone.

1. Take your dog to the Virtual Fence Area, fit the collar around his neck, and activate the fence map that corresponds to the location in which you are working. Set the collar's static correction level to "1".
2. With your dog on a long leash, walk toward each boundary flag one at a time. If he hears the Alert Tone and moves away from it toward the center of the Fence Area, immediately praise, and break into a game or offer the dog a treat.
 - a. If your dog does not come back to you and continues moving through the Alert Tone, the Warning Tone will sound. If the dog triggers the Warning Tone allow him to linger in the boundary area and potentially through the Warning Tone.
 - b. If your dog breaches the containment system and receives stimulation, give him 2-3 seconds and observe his behavior. If he comes back into containment upon feeling the stimulation, praise him and break into a game or offer a treat. If he does not move or seems confused, gently motion him back into containment. Even if you had to help him with the leash, offer praise, treats, play, and encouragement upon hearing the Alert Tone and coming back into the Fence Area.
3. Repeat this process until your dog resists going into the boundary zone. Once he consistently resists going past the Warning Tone, you are ready to move onto the next step.
 - a. If your dog resists going into the boundary zone on his own, praise, offer treats, and move onto the next flag.

Helpful Hints:

- While training, watch your dog's body language and adjust the Static Correction level accordingly. Look for signs that your dog feels the Static Correction and adjust your plan if you notice that the Static Correction is overwhelming to him. (Signs that your dog feels the Static Correction may include tilting his head, scratching at the collar, or shaking his head as if he had water in their fur.)
- If your dog does not seem to feel the Static Correction or runs through the Warning Tone and receives Static Correction more than three times, raise the Static Correction level by one and try the exercise again. Alternatively, if the Static Correction seems too intense for your dog, drop it by several levels and retrain Exercise C3 from the beginning.
- Once you learn the appropriate level of Static Correction for your dog, you may start each session off on this level. You do not have to begin back at level 1.
- Not sure if your dog has heard the Alert Tone? Use the flags as a guide to help determine if your dog has triggered the Alert Tone or Warning Tone.

Schedule:

- Two 20-minute sessions per day of teaching the Warning Tone/Boundary Line for two days.

Exercise C4: Proofing the Fence Area (Days 6-9)

Once you have found the Static Correction level that is appropriate for your dog to work under, and your dog is responding with 95% proficiency (meaning that he has stopped testing the Alert Tone/Warning Tone under low distraction), you may begin proofing your Fence Area under higher distractions.

1. Take your dog to the Virtual Fence Area and activate the fence that corresponds to the location in which you are working. Fit the collar around your dog's neck.
2. Set up distractions outside of the Boundary Line. These may include a friend walking by with another dog, a ball bouncing outside of the Virtual Fence Area, or someone jogging by.
3. If your dog hears the Alert Tone and moves toward the center of the Virtual Fence Area, immediately praise, and break into a game, or offer the dog a treat. Do not prompt your dog to move toward the center of the Fence Area.
 - a. If upon hearing the Alert Tone your dog does not respond to you and hears the Warning Tone, allow him to linger in the Warning Zone and potentially run across the Boundary Line.
 - b. If your dog breaches the Fence Area and receives Static Correction, give him 2-3 seconds and observe his behavior. If he comes back into the Fence Area upon feeling the Static Correction, praise him and break into a game or offer a treat. If he does not move or seems confused, gently motion him back into containment, using your long leash if you have to. Even if you had to help your dog make the right decision, offer praise, treats, play, and encouragement upon hearing the Alert Tone and coming back into the Fence Area.
4. Repeat this process until your dog resists going into the Warning Zone, even under high distraction. Once your dog resists going past the Warning Tone with 95-100% proficiency, you are ready to move onto the next step.

Helpful Hints:

- Note that the level of Static Correction that is needed while working your dog through distractions will likely be higher than the level of stimulation needed while working your dog under low distractions. This is normal. You may have to adjust the level of Static Correction at this point and raise it in order to keep your dog within the Virtual Fence Area. If your dog runs through the Warning Tone more than 3 times throughout the duration of training Exercise B7, raise the Static Correction level on the collar by one level and retrain exercise C3 from the beginning.
- Once you learn the appropriate level of Static Correction for your dog, you may start each session off at this level of Static Correction.

Schedule:

- Two 20-minute sessions per day of proofing the boundary for 4 days.

Exercise C5: Observation (Days 10-12)

The goal of this step is to keep your dog inside of the Fence Area without being restrained on a leash. Only proceed to this step once your dog is clearly proficient at Exercise C4 and avoids the Warning Tone, regardless of distractions or temptations.

1. Adjust the Static Correction level to an appropriate level for your dog. (This should be consistent with the level that you were using in Step C4).
2. Unclip the leash or drop it and allow it to drag on the ground. Allow your dog to run free in the Virtual Fence Area. Remain outside with your dog, spending this time alternating between playing and training with your dog and momentarily preoccupying yourself with another task within the Virtual Fence Area.
3. If the dog runs through the Boundary Line and returns to the Fence Area; praise your dog, offer him a treat, or engage him in a game with a toy.
4. If your dog leaves the Virtual Fence Area, retrieve your dog and walk him back into the Fence Area.

Helpful Tips:

- If your dog does exit the Fence Area more than 3 times in one session, repeat step C4 for 2-3 days before attempting step C5 again.

Schedule:

- Two 20-minute sessions per day of observation for 5 days.

Free to Roam at Home (Days 13+)

After day 15, your dog should be proficient at staying within your home Fence Area. Be sure to check in on him regularly to ensure that he is respecting his boundaries. If your dog seems to be testing the boundaries after a prolonged period of staying within the Fence Area, or if your dog seems to be confused at any point, revisit the earlier steps in this training program for a few sessions to brush up on his skills.

Fading the Reward

Once your dog is reliably staying within the Fence Area without testing boundaries, you may start allowing him freedom to roam his new territory without direction from you. You may also begin to wean off rewarding your dog every time he responds to the Alert Tone. After a week or two, you may stop using treats altogether.

If at any time you think that your dog is struggling to understand what is expected of him when he elicits the Alert Tone, if he attempts to run through the outer fence line, or if your dog seems stressed or confused while in your yard, give your dog a refresher by revisiting exercise C3 for a few training sessions.

Taking the Fence With You

The SpotOn Virtual Smart Fence is unique in that you can set up to 10 different Fence Areas and store them inside the app on your phone. Once your dog is fully trained to his home Fence Area, it's time to take your training on the road and work your dog in a new location.

Exercise C6: Setting Up a Portable Fence Area (Day 13)

You can set up a Portable Fence Area, just as you did at home. The Portable fence feature can be used at a park that you frequent, at a friend's home, at a vacation home, or anywhere else you choose. Your location is only limited by your creativity! The process for setting up a Portable Fence Area will be the same as in Exercise C1. Please refer to this section for information on setting up a Portable Fence Area.

The process for training a Portable Fence Area in a new location is a shortened version your previous training. You will find that the dog's grasp of the concept of staying within a Fence Area improves and takes less training time with each new location. Depending on your dog's learning abilities, by the time your dog has had training in 4-6 unique Portable Fence Areas you can expect him to navigate a new Portable Fence Area with minimal training efforts.

Exercise C7: Training a Portable Fence Area (Days 14-19)

1. Go to a new location and create a Portable Fence Area using your collar and the provided flags. (For more information, please revisit Exercise C1)
2. Take your dog to the Fence Area, fit the collar around his neck, and activate the fence map that corresponds to the location in which you are working.
3. Follow the procedures for Exercises C2, C3, & C4.

Helpful Hints:

- Dogs do generalize concepts to new locations, but it takes practice. In the first 3 locations, covered by this training plan, go through the steps to train your dog to the Portable Fence Area at least 2-3 times in each unique location. This is especially important if the Portable Fence Area is in a location that you plan to come to frequently

Schedule:

- Two 30-minute training sessions per day of Portable Fence Area training for 6 days.

Working a Circular Fence

A Circular Fence is a helpful tool that will keep your dog contained into either a 20-yard, 50-yard, 100-yard, 500-yard, or 1,000-yard radius from the center point that is originally set. A Circular Fence can be set up in just minutes, and is a great tool to use at the beach, park, campsite, or other similar location.

Exercise C8: Setting up a Circular Fence (Day 20)

1. Toggle down to the “*Create Map*” screen.
2. Toggle to select the “*Circle*” feature.
3. Position yourself in the precise spot that you would like to be the center of your Circular Fence. Stake a target into the ground at your feet.
4. Toggle to select the radius of the circle that you would like to create. Hold the GPS antenna above chest level pointing to the sky and select “*Enter*”.
5. As soon as you select “*Enter*” your map will be drawn and activated.

Helpful Hints:

- You may not save a Circular Fence for use at a later date. When you deactivate this map, it will be deleted from the app’s memory.

Exercise C9: Training a Circular Fence (Days 21-22)

1. Set up a 20-yard Circular Fence.
2. Attach a long leash to your dog’s regular collar. Standing close to the target, allow your dog to wander and trigger the Alert Tone.
 - a. If your dog triggers the Alert Tone and then moves to the center of the Fence Area, reward him with a verbal “*yes*” and a treat or a game.
 - b. If your dog continues through the Warning Tone, he will receive a Static Correction at the Boundary Line (1.5 meters after the Warning Tone). If your dog receives a Static Correction, use your leash to direct him back into the Fence Area.
3. When you are sure your dog understands the concept of the Circular Fence, you may unclip the leash and allow him to wander throughout the Circular Fence.

Helpful Hints:

- Depending on how far away your dog is from you, you may not be able to easily hear the Alert Tone. Use the flags as a guide to help determine if your dog has triggered the Alert Tone or Warning Tone.
- By this point in training, your dog should be very familiar with the tones and what they mean. Training the Circular Fence should move along rather quickly provided your dog is successfully navigating other Fence Areas. For safety’s sake, please begin with your dog on a leash until you feel comfortable allowing him to run free.
- Start with the smallest possible Circular Fence for training. Once you are confident that your dog understands his Circular Fence, feel free to try out larger Circular Fence Areas.

Schedule:

- Two 30-minute sessions of training for 2 days.