

Keep your clean house and your sanity with innovative home pet trainer



The Gadget Guy
David Novak

If my dog were human, he'd have a criminal record for lewd behavior. He has no respect for peace and quiet, other people's property or where he goes to relieve himself. My neighbors hate him, and his run-ins with the UPS guy will probably wind my family up in court someday. He also has a bark that sounds like a shotgun in an empty warehouse. To say that he's insubordinate would be a grave understatement. He's been through obedience school, flunking out miserably, and my efforts to teach him good manners are futile.

The frustration of your dog barking, jumping on strangers and dashing to the door when someone knocks could make you lose your mind. Since dogs are mischievous by nature, it's only logical that in order to live a sane life, pets have to be trained to live in a human world ... or more to the point, in your home.

Fortunately, now you can get your dog to behave appropriately without beating him silly. Positive reinforcement and rewards for good behavior are the best ways to train your dog.

Treat & Train, by The Sharper Image, is a new and innovative remote-controlled food-dispensing system that combines a clinically proven training protocol with fun dog games. It only takes a few short weeks, and your dog will lie

"games" that can be played at convenient times (such as during TV commercials), your animal will learn: (1) tone means a treat is coming; (2) target with the nose; (3) lie down and stay; (4) run to a rug and lie down on cue; and (5) lie down and stay with distractions. Each "game" takes about five days to complete, and the Treat & Train works with all kinds of animals.

Treat & Train is also designed to hold and dispense your dog's regular dry food, and it replaces his old bowl, becoming part of Yin's program to make food a real treat and a fun reward for good behavior. The Treat & Train kit runs \$169.95 and includes a one-year warranty, a hand-held target wand for your dog (with a snap-on base for hands-free use), two dispenser disks for different sized food, and Yin's complete indoor training system with an

What the Gadget Guy thinks

Utility



More effective than any obedience school my dog has attended.

Ease



The remote controls everything, and the handbook explains everything in plain language.

illustrated training manual and a lively DVD.

Treat & Train's rugged, dog-proof housing measures 16 inches by 7 inches by

Practicality



The Treat & Train is worth its weight in gold.

Portability



Weighs a light 3.5 pounds and can easily be taken anywhere.

Cost



You're really paying for the training manual and DVD, but for the results I got, I would have paid a grand. Some obedience schools run twice as much.

8 inches. It weighs 3.5 pounds and plugs into a standard outlet with the included AC adapter. It will also run for about four months on

Safety



Meets all safety requirements.

four D batteries. The remote control runs on an included 23A-12V battery. To purchase the Treat & Train Professional Dog Training System, visit

Coolness



Very effective pet training in the convenience of your own home.

Sharper Image's Web site at www.sharperimage.com, or call them toll free at (800) 344-4444. Ask for item SI398YEL. 



Submitted Art

down calmly in a chosen spot when guests come to your door and in other situations with lots of distractions.

Did you know that every time you interact with your dog, you're teaching him something, whether it's good or bad?

Understanding how dogs think and learn is key, and the best reward for a dog is food! You knew that. Dogs really aren't interested in anything else, except maybe a good nap and a long scratch on the back.

The Treat & Train system works to train with clarity and timing. It must be clear to your pet which of his behaviors triggers a reward and which triggers discipline. And clarity comes from timing. You have to be quick on the draw with that treat because the speed with which the treat follows the desired behavior before any subsequent behavior ruins it is very important. The dog needs to know that he is being rewarded immediately for doing something well. Otherwise, he may think he's getting a treat for something else.

The "brains" behind the Treat & Train system is the wireless remote, which dispenses a treat when a button is pushed. A tone will sound to signal to the dog that a treat has been dispensed into the tray. As a consequence, there's no fumbling for a treat from your pocket, no reaching toward the dog, no need to approach or distract the dog, and essentially no delay at all between your dog doing exactly the desired behavior and the dispensing of the reward. This minimizes confusion and teaches your mutt good behavior quickly.

The Sharper Image's exclusive Treat & Train system is the product of collaboration between Sharper Image and Sophia Yin, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, applied animal behaviorist, lecturer at UC Davis and an award-winning pet columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle. She is also the author of "The Small Animal Veterinary Nerdbook," a best-selling textbook for veterinary students.

The included training manual and DVD give you everything to be successful using Treat & Train. With five