# K9 – Remote Reward System User Guide

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# **Important Notices**

Read the operating Instructions and Phases of Training before using the K9 Remote Reward System.

Do not place the remote transmitter next to or near objects that may be sensitive to electronic signals.

Battery in the remote transmitter should be replaced periodically. Never leave the battery located within the control box after use. It will discharge. Remove battery from control box after each training session. Dispose of batteries in a safe environmentally manner.

Persons with certain cardiac devices must take the appropriate precautions as the remote can send out electronic signals which may or may not interfere with such cardiac device.

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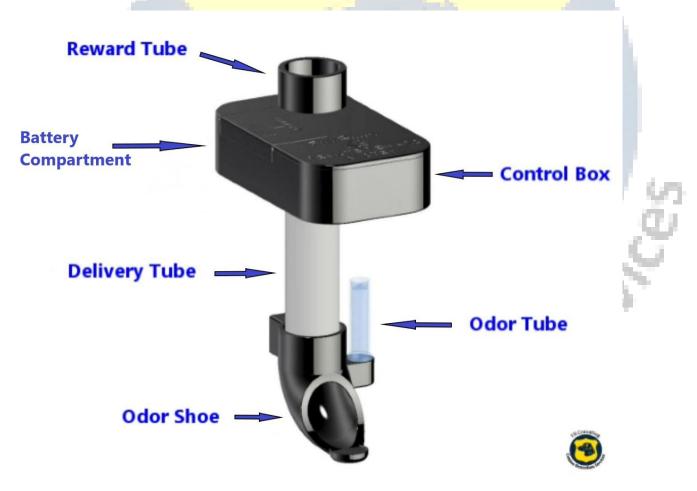
### Contents in Shipping Box.



# K9 - Remote Reward System

Patent Pending

**Description:** The K9 - Remote Reward System is a training method that is simple in design and nature, which will enable an efficient, timely and almost immediate reward to be delivered remotely by the handler. Incorporating the classical conditioning of rewarding at the source of odor, the K9 – Remote Reward System will develop a strong hunt drive, focus on odor obedience and teach your dog, handler independence. The RRS is highly concealable, very portable and easy to set up. Additionally, and of equal importance the K9- RRS will teach the dog to focus on the source of the odor and not on the handler, thereby virtually eliminating handler influence.



The K9 - Remote Reward training device.

Patent Pending

#### **Control Box Preparation**

- 1. Remove cover of battery compartment by sliding cover off the control box.
- 2. Place 9V battery into battery compartment of control box.
- 3. Ensure that battery is installed correctly to match positive and negative terminals.
- 4. Replace battery cover by sliding cover over battery compartment on control box.
- 5. Press remote fob button that matches the control box to ensure control box is working properly.
- 6. Remove battery from compartment when finished with training exercises. To remove battery from the compartment simply turn control box over and gently tap box into the palm of your hand.

## **Odor Tube Preparation**

- 1. Ensure that Odor Tube is clean for use.
- Prepare Q-Tip or (cotton swab) by cutting the stem so that Q-tip will fit inside the Odor Tube.
- 3. Place Q-Tip inside the odor tube by using pair of tweezers. Q-Tip swab should rest inside tube just below the rim of the Odor tube.
- 4. Using eye dropper or applicator, place 3-4 drops of Target Odor substance (Essential Oil) on top of Q-Tip. (When first starting to use the K9 RRS device it is recommended the user apply several drops of target odor to allow for the maximum exposure of odor source for the dog to detect the target odor).

### Target Odor Set up time

1. Allow for a set up time of 15 -30 minutes to ensure the odor will emanate from the Odor Tube to enter the Odor Shoe. This of course will always depend on existing environmental factors.

# **Odor Shoe Preparation**

1. The Odor Shoe requires little or no preparation other than to ensure it is not contaminated with foreign matter. A thorough cleaning with a disinfecting-wipes before and after use is recommended.

#### **Remote Transmitter Preparation**

1. The Remote Transmitter (FOB) requires no preparation. The battery life expectancy should last beyond two years depending on frequency of use.

#### Range of Remote Transmitter

1. Tests have shown that the K9 RRS remote transmitter is most effective when applied with distances up to 40ft indoors and 60ft outdoors from the Control Box, depending on physical obstructions such as walls, fences, vehicles.

### Maintenance and cleaning of the K9 RRS device.

- 1. The K9-RRS device is not waterproof. Precautions should be taken when operating this device in inclement weather. If inclement weather is expected during the training exercises, it is recommended to cover the control box with a small plastic bag.
- 2. Periodically cleaning the Reward Tube located on top of the Control Box with a alcohol wipe is recommended.
- 3. Cleaning the Odor Tube and Odor Shoe with a alcohol wipe <u>after each</u> training session is recommended.
- 4. When storing the K9 Remote Reward Device after training sessions it is recommended that the rechargeable lithium battery be removed and recharged for the next session and the K9-RRS device be stored in a clean, dry location.

## Types of Reward Treats to use with the K9-RRS.

- The K9-Remote Reward System requires dry treats or dry dog food that fit in the Reward Tube located on top of the Control Box. Round or oval-shaped reward treats or food of a consistent size work best. Tests have shown that a dry treat like "Raw Boost Mixers" that are 3/8" in diameter work well.
- 2. It is recommended that you conduct test drills with several types of reward treats to see if they are appropriate for use in the K9 RRS.
- It is recommended that moist or wet reward treats <u>never</u> be used with the K9 RRS device. They will contaminate, clog or jam the K9 RRS rendering the K9 RRS device inoperable.

# Using the K9 – RRS.

(Remote Reward System.)

# Phase I: If your dog is new to detection games.

**Review Video tutorial of Phase One exercises on website** 

### Level I: The pre - imprintation phase.

Prior to utilizing the remote reward system into you training regime. Identify the following detection dog traits within your dog. **Independence, Hunt drive and Obedience to Odor**.

#### <u>If your dog has already been imprinted with a target odor then begin training</u> <u>exercises at Phase II.</u>

However, I would suggest revisiting the following foundational exercises to help your dog transition to using the K9-Remote reward system as a regular part of their maintenance training program.

#### Building Independence and Hunt Drive

- 1. Use a "Primary Reward" or primary reinforcer (such as high value treats) when introducing new training tools to build independence and Hunt drive. Such as using the open box method or training bowls along with paint cans.
- 2. A "primary reward" will assist in building your dog's drive, focus and independence from the handler while reinforcing their hunt drive. REMEMBER this is <u>a game</u> for your dog.
- 3. Don't worry about introducing a new target odor yet, it is important that your dog has established good hunting skills and working independently from the handler. Continue with this game repeatedly until you see your dog progressing consistently.
- 4. Be PATIENT. Do not rush this phase of foundational training. This foundational training may need several weeks of repetition.

#### Next move on to Level II.

### Level II: Introduction to Target odor.

#### Review video tutorial of Level II exercises on website

- 1. Utilize training Bowls or similar training device that will hold the odor.
- 2. Place target odor within the training bowl vial or within a separate container (e.g., tin or odor tube within an open box) placed inside an open box.
- 3. "Pairing" or placing a high value treat inside the odor bowl will allow your dog to find an odor source with a reward present and handler involvement will be minimal.
- 4. Bring your dog into area and release your dog with a "find it" or "search" command.
- 5. The dog can be worked on and off leash for exercises if in safe environment.
- 6. Conduct multiple training exercises until dog demonstrates they recognize the source of the odor as a source for their reward. Sometimes referred to as Odor Obedience.
- 7. As your dog becomes proficient in locating the target odor source, you can remove the "paired" treat and reward by hand, at the source of odor.
- 8. Keep your training exercises brief and concise. 3-5 minutes maximum. For best results conduct multiple exercises several times a day
- 9. During the introduction to odor training sessions introduce the K9 RRS device by placing the <u>RRS Control Box</u> in a background location and activate treat release system (no Treat present) by pressing the button on the remote fob, so dog becomes comfortable with treat release sound (actuator) "muted click".
  - 1. NOTE: If your Dog is distracted by the muted "click" of the RRS device I would recommend pairing the sound with a positive activity, something neutral and giving the dog a huge food reward. We want to create positive associations to the muted sound <u>BEFORE</u> we start detection dog exercises/games. Introduce the control box from a distance (10-20 ft away) located on a table or chair. Simply press the associated remote control button to activate the control box muted sound as you are having your dog play a favorite game. Do this repeatedly, until your dog demonstrates a comfortable behavior with the control box "click" sound.
- 5. Handler / Trainer should practice releasing reward via remote fob prior to starting with the K9-RRS with dog.
- 6. After many repetitions, with the dog displaying an enthusiasm and willingness to seek out a target odor, this may be the time for the handler to build on the dog's response to the target odor by implementing a final



trained response. This trained response to odor can vary depending on the training modality.

#### Phase II: Introduction to the K9 RRS device with Training Bowls

If your dog has already been introduced to a Target odor



#### Review video tutorial of Phase II: Introduction to K9 RRS exercises on website

By this time, the dog should be demonstrating a distinct and observable change of behavior (final trained response) when locating the source of a trained odor. (FTR) e.g.: "sit or down" or "look back" / "stare at source".

- 1. Place 9V battery into battery compartment of control box.
- 2. Ensure that battery is installed correctly to match positive and negative terminals.
- 3. Press remote fob to ensure control box is working properly.
- 4. Utilize the RRS device and secure the device to a wall (or other immovable object) along with scent training bowl or similar container.
- 5. Load scent training bowl or similar container with target odor.
- 6. Place scent training bowl or similar container underneath the end of the delivery tube.

Ensure K9-RRS Control Box is elevated 36-48" above training bowl. (Important). Utilize a 36" or 48" delivery tube or two 18"-20" delivery tubes with coupling for this purpose.



b. Detecting a target odor,

8. To assist the reward to have a smoother delivery place a 45-degree (modified) connector onto end of delivery tube.

9. Place Control Box on the other end of delivery tube and load Control Box with reward treat/s.

10. Bring your dog into area and release your dog with a "find it" or "search" command.

11. Conduct as many training repetitions as required:

a. To get the dog familiar with running to the training bowl,

- c. Then demonstrating an observable final trained response,
- d. And being remotely rewarded by the handler.

The timing of the reward delivery is critical to the dog learning to associate the reward treat and target odor with the desired behavior. Therefore, the handler/trainer must become proficient when releasing the treat.

12.The K9 RRS is designed to be ultimately utilized with one reward each training exercise. However, during this phase, multiple food rewards (3-4) can be placed into control box for release during each training exercise.

13.As with most training exercises, keep the durations short, concise, with many repetitions.

a. Using multiple K9 RRS devices to expand the search area and reinforce independence from the handler.

Review video tutorial of Phase II on website fredhelfers.com/K9 RRS

#### Phase II continued:

#### If you have a second or multiple K9 RRS devices.

- After the dog displays odor obedience to a target odor (FTR) at the training bowl or similar container and is displaying behavior that they are comfortable being rewarded at the source of odor remotely. (Many repetitions are important.)
  - a. Place a second K9-RRS and scent training bowl or similar container with target odor, approximately 4ft. away from first RRS. The set up should be identical as the first device. Load second Control box with reward treat/s, so that both RRS control boxes have treats in them.
  - b. With your dog on a long line 10-20ft, bring your dog into the search area again and release your dog, approximately 10-20 ft from the scent bowls or similar container. This exercise can be conducted off leash if in a safe environment.
  - c. When your dog goes to the first bowl (target odor) and RRS device, reward your dog remotely in a timely manner.
  - d. As your dog has been rewarded at the first RRS they may appear hesitant to move to the second. This can be a normal behavior.
  - e. **Important!** Wait the dog out. Don't interfere with their decision-making process. This process may take several seconds, but your dog will need to discover when it leaves the first RRS device and scent training bowl it will find the second RRS device and scent training bowl (with target odor) in close proximity. <u>This will</u> <u>build confidence, hunt drive and independence in your dog.</u>
- 2. When your dog displays a willingness (Independence) to leave first K9-RRS after being rewarded at the scent training bowl with odor, allow your dog to go to the second scent training bowl and K9-RRS device and reward him (her) at source of odor remotely. *The Timing of the Reward is critical!*
- 3. After repeating this exercise several times, increase the distance of the second RRS device and scent training bowl to 6ft or 8ft if your space allows.
- 4. Once the dog has progressed well during Phase Two and you are satisfied with their progress, move to **Phase Three**.

#### Phase III:

#### Introduction of K9-RRS device with Odor Shoe attachment.

#### Review video tutorial of Phase III training on website fredhelfers.com

- 1. Place 9V battery into battery compartment of control box.
- 2. Ensure that battery is installed correctly to match positive and negative terminals.
- 3. Press remote fob to ensure control box is working properly.
- 4. Load odor tube with Target Odor source utilizing a cotton Q tip or Small sterile gauze placed into the odor vial. *Use a large amount of odor to begin with, you can always reduce the level of odor later. Allow for ample set up time for Odor to emanate from Odor Shoe.*
- 5. Screw odor tube into side of odor shoe so that it is firmly in place.
- 6. Place odor shoe onto the end of the delivery tube.
- 7. Place control box onto other end of delivery tube.
- 8. Control box should be placed a minimum of 3' to 4 'above the odor





shoe, on delivery tube.

9. Secure RRS to wall or similar sturdy mounting.

10. **IMPORTANT**: Position the odor shoe so that it is approximately the same height as your dog's head.

11. Load reward tube with treat.

12. Release your dog approximately 10ft from the RRS device and allow your dog to go to the source of odor. (Odor shoe) Release your dog with a "find it" or "search" command.

13. As your dog displays an alert (final trained response) immediately press the remote release FOB to reward your dog.

14. Remember: The timing of the reward is critical. As soon as your dog displays the wanted behavior, reward the dog remotely from approximately 10-20ft away.

15. The dog can be either on or off leash depending on the environment.

16. Repeat this exercise with you dog until it becomes clear your dog understands the exercise.

- 17. Move the location of the K9- RRS, set device up as previously described and repeat the exercises until you are confident your dog is understanding "Odor Pays".
- 18. At the conclusion of Phase Three your dog should clearly be hunting, independently for the source of the odor, giving a clear final trained response, being rewarded at source and then continue hunting for more odor sources or until called off.

#### Phase III (continued):

## Introduction of the exposed K9-RRS devices to build Hunt drive.

- 1. Canine can be utilized on and off leash for exercises.
- 2. Place 9V battery into battery compartment of control box.
- 3. Ensure that battery is installed correctly to match positive and negative terminals.
- 4. Press remote fob to ensure control box is working properly.
- 5. Load odor tube with Target Odor source utilizing a cotton Q tip or Small sterile gauze placed into the odor vial.
- 6. Screw odor tube into side of odor shoe so that it is firmly in place.
- 7. Place odor shoe onto the end of the delivery tube.
- 8. Place control box onto other end of delivery tube.
- 9. Load reward tube with treat.
- 10.Control box should be placed a minimum of 3' to 4 'above the odor shoe, on delivery tube. Keep utilizing a long delivery tube for now as your dog becomes accustomed to the RRS device.
- 11. **IMPORTANT**: Position the odor shoe so that it is approximately the same height or higher than your your dog's head. Varying heights and locations of the placement of the RRS will



assist your dog in developing a stronger hunt drive as it goes to the source of the target odor.

Secure RRS to wall or similar sturdy mounting.
Use 6-10 "blank" delivery tubes regularly. Have tubes secured to wall or other fixtured along with blank bowls or containers such as open boxes.
Place the RRS device at random locations starting with easy finds working towards more difficult and challenging presentations. (See photo examples)
The handler should be varying their distances and locations from their dog, never distracting or



cueing their dog but being present to support their dog.

# **Examples of RRS device attachments:**



## Phase IV:

# Introduction of concealed hides with K9-RRS.

This is when you really experience the versatility of the K9 - RRS device. By now you and your dog should have demonstrated proficiency when using the K9 RRS in its most basic and fundamental phases of training. Let the Fun begin!

The K9 RRS device is highly concealable and very portable.

The possibilities of where to hide the K9 RRS are only limited by your imagination. (Tutorial videos are available at my website fredhelfers.com). Start by hiding the RRS device inside the shipping box that the K9 RRS was delivered to you. You will find this box will become very useful when concealing the RRS.

Let me walk you through the setup of using the shipping box as a concealment container.

#### Setup the K9 RRS device:

- 1. Place 9V battery into battery compartment of control box.
- 2. Ensure that battery is installed correctly to match positive and negative terminals.
- 3. Press remote fob to ensure control box is working properly.
- 4. Load odor tube with Target Odor source utilizing a cotton Q tip or Small sterile gauze placed into the odor vial.
- 5. Screw odor tube into side of odor shoe so that it is firmly in place.
- 6. Place odor shoe onto the end of the delivery tube.
- 7. Allow for adequate setup time for Odor to escape odor tube!
- 8. Load reward tube with treat.

#### Setup of K9 RRS hidden inside the shipping box.

- 9. Empty shipping box of all contents.
- 10. Cut out hole in box as demonstrated in tutorial video. Hole should be cut following the stencil circle on box.

- 11. Place RRS device without control box attached into the shipping box so that odor shoe protrudes from hole.
- 12. Place packaging material that came with shipping box inside box so that it holds the delivery shoe and odor tube in place.
- 13. Place control box onto other end of delivery tube. So that the control box will rest on end of box partially covered by box flaps.
- 14. Load reward tube on control box with reward treat.
- 15. **IMPORTANT**:

Remember to place the odor shoe located in the concealment container at head height so that the food reward located in the control box will be beyond the reach of the dog. (On chair, shelf, or placed on another box etc.)



Photos showing shipping box with K9-RRS inserted for training.

Review video tutorial on Phase IV. at website fredhelfers.com

### **Examples of concealment locations:**



You can utilize a variety of luggage or containers to conceal the K9 RRS device.



#### **Examples of concealment locations:**



Using different boxes to conceal the K9 RRS device.

