



**SPOT FREE:** Carol Burness and her family stepped into the future recently when they had an 'invisible' fence built around their property to keep their dog, Sparky, from running loose. A special collar worn by the year-old Dalmation receives signals when he nears the Burness family's property line via an underground cable. If he ventures too

close, he receives a harmless shock. Carol says it only took Sparky a few days to learn where the property's limits are, but he's still free to roam around the yard.

— Jim Thomas

## Dog roams free inside yard's invisible fence

By BRUCE STAPLEY  
Carol Burness is breathing a lot easier these days and it's all because of a new fence.

No, the R.R. 4 Stouffville resident didn't build one of those green 'good neighbor' property dividers common in new subdivisions.

In fact, her new fence defies description, because it is invisible.

But as far as her year-old Dalmation Sparky is concerned, the fence is quite real; thank you very much. And it's just as likely to keep him from running off.

Having lost a previous dog when it ran into the path of a car, Carol and her family were somewhat paranoid when it came to letting Sparky run free.

And the dog's tendency to dig up Carol's flower garden and disturb the garbage had the family at wit's end.

Carol noticed an advertisement in The Weekender offering an electronic 'fence' system that would keep a dog from going where he shouldn't be.

"The ad attracted my attention," she says. "It said the fence

works like nothing you've ever seen. We were desperate, so we looked into it."

An installation crew came out and buried a thin wire six inches underground wherever Carol decided she didn't want Sparky roaming.

The entire two-acre property was framed in by the hidden cable, along with flower beds and the spot where the garbage was kept.

A transmitter was set up in the garage, hooked up to the wire outside.

Sparky was then fitted for a collar with a little receiver attached, and a seven-volt battery was put in. Then came the training sessions.

"We were told to run string along the path of the wiring so the dog would have a visual reminder of his boundaries once the training began," Carol says.

Whenever Sparky came within six feet of the wire, he would hear a warning tone through his receiver. If he didn't retreat within a second, the pulsating tone would be followed by a mild half-watt shock.

The shock is comparable to a carpet shock, causing a muscle contraction. It is unpleasant but harmless.

### Three days to learn

"The training consisted of two 10-minute sessions daily," Carol explains. "Sparky had it learned within three days. I think he only received three shocks in all."

The strings came down within a week, and the dog had quickly learned where he didn't belong.

The training involved Carol and her two children Ashlee and Amy.

"It was really a lot of fun," Carol recalls. "The kids would go up to the string and shake it, saying, 'No no no, Sparky.' Sparky picked it up fast."

Carol points out that the system does not hurt the dog, and shouldn't be confused with the electric fencing used to contain livestock.

She claims the electrical charge for those fences is 250 times stronger than the one surrounding their land.

"And the beautiful thing about it is that the dog can run free without being tied," Carol adds, noting that she had tried tying Sparky to keep him from roaming.

"We did that for two weeks, but he didn't get any exercise, and he would knock the baby down with the chain," she says. "We couldn't have the dog and the children out at the same time."

She adds it has allowed the family to keep the property intact, and says it cost her less than building a fence around the entire two acres.

"And we've got a lot more peace of mind now," she concludes.

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Due to supplier delivery problem the following item WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE:  
Item 14: 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 1/2" Block.  
Item 17: 28 cm Saddle.  
Item 18: 28 cm Saddle.  
Item 27: Ironing Pad, cover set NOT AS ILLUSTRATED. Should be Yellow and black pattern.  
Incidentally, the items listed above have appeared in our advertising. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or confusion to our customers.  
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