

Hot Wire 101

Shopping List:

Cattle charger: the Zareba A15 seems to be the charger of choice - it's a 15 mile radius cattle charger. (\$70) OR if an electrical outlet is a problem you can use a solar powered charger, with a battery backup

Insulators: you can buy for both wood and chain link fence. You will need one insulator for each fence post. (\$2 a bag of 25) Note: On the longer insulators, it might be necessary to buy longer nails to attach to the fence post. For jumpers it may be necessary to hot wire the bottom of the fence and purchase extension rods for running wire around the top of the fence. The dog must be grounded (touching the ground) to be shocked - if the dog is clearing the fence by jumping - the hot wire on the bottom of the fence (in theory) will deter the dog away from the fence all together. The extension rod would add height to the fence. Again adding another deterrence to the dog.

For cinder block or brick wall the best thing would go to Lowes and they sell 4 or 5 foot posts designed specifically for hotwire use. They only cost about \$4 each. They have spikes on the bottom of the post so you can easily put them in the ground. Anyhow place the posts parallel about 2 or three feet away from the block wall. By placing the posts away from the wall rather than up against it you have a better chance of the dog hitting it as he attempts to go over. I'd be willing to bet that the dog would jump on the wire with his front feet to scope things out before any attempt to jump the gap. The posts also have three spots to place the wire. One up top, one in the middle and one on the bottom and they also have the insulators built into them. They sell them in the same spot they sell chain link and kennel supplies.

6' grounding rod: (and some nuts and bolts) to attach the wire to the cattle charger. (\$8)

Spool of wire: one spool is good for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of fence. (\$20?)

Spool of insulated wire: (hot wire that runs inside a plastic tubing) you need to bury wire for a gate access and for the first couple of feet from the charger to your first fence post.

Other insulators: if you want wire across a gate they make a nice "handle type insulator" that you can grab on to pull the wire out of the way to then access the gate.

Yellow warning signs: attach to the outside of your fence, common courtesy.

Voltage meter: various designs, read below for further information.

Installation:

Placement of the charger - either in a storage shed (ideal), under a deck, or attached to the house - with a make-shift tarp to cover the unit.

Run one wire from the charger to the grounding rod, which you bury/stick in the ground, only 6-8 of the rod should be above ground.

Insulators:

Bottom of the fence - you want to put the insulators and wire about 6 inches up from the ground - this allows good clearance for weed wacking without too much hassle.

Top of the fence - as high as possible on the fence post. Extension rods the same.

When all of the insulators are in place, you are ready to begin running the wire - keep the wire taut between insulators. End the wire at your last insulator.

Testing and Maintenance:

They are different testers that hook up directly to the wire to visually see if it's hot. There's a couple different styles and they all range in price. The one we recommend is about \$16 and flashes when the voltage is low or non-existent. Even though the "ready" light on the box is blinking and you can audibly hear a pulse doesn't mean it's hot unfortunately. Most voltage testers (especially digital) won't work with testing the wire because the pulse is so quick and intense the meter doesn't have a chance to read it. Most household voltmeters will just read "OL" for overload. If you're going to manually test it with a voltmeter, use an analog type.

It is a good idea to walk the fence line on a regular basis to visually inspect the wire for any damage, as well as clear away any debris that may hinder the effectiveness of the fence.

Other:

The shock is pretty intense for the dogs when they hit it and you will hear them yelp, scream and bark as they boot scoot all around the yard but they only do that once.....some of the slower learning Siberians do it twice! :(The peace of mind that comes with it is unbelievable. For multiple dog families, it is best to introduce the dogs to the fence one by one...put them in the yard by themselves until you hear them scream. When they get zapped they could potentially blame the dog standing next to them which could result in a dog fight.

Warning.....hearing the sound the dog makes when they hit that wire will tear you up and make you bawl like a baby because it sounds horrific. Again, I mention the peace of mind. You will find too, once they hit the hot wire.....there will be a 2-4 day period where your dogs won't go outside or want to go outside. You'll have to drag them but do know, they get over that. You're likely to have accidents in the house during this adjustment period as well. Some of my dogs haven't hit the hot wire.....they have just seen the others do it and must have learned from that alone.

