

## POINTS TO PAWNDER SERIES

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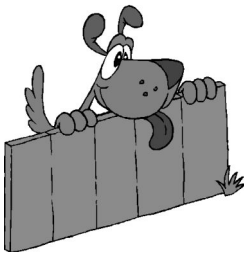


### Electronic Fences? Yes, No, Maybe?

Are you considering putting up an electronic fence to keep Fido from straying, while maintaining the look of your yard? There are many things to think about before doing this. Keep in mind that electronic fences do not work with all breeds of dogs, with all ages of dogs, or for all situations. Indiana-PAW encourages folks to think very carefully before relying on an electric fence to safeguard your beloved four-legged family member. Because of the many drawbacks to electronic fences, Indiana-PAW encourages citizens to, if possible, use traditional fences.

#### Possible Benefits To Electronic Fences

##### Pros



- Your dog cannot dig under it like he/she might be able to dig under a traditional, non-electronic fence.
- Does not have a gate that can be left open, allowing your dog to escape.
- Can be used if your neighborhood has rules against physical fences.
- Can sometimes be less costly to install than a wooden or chain link fence.
- Can be dug up and moved if you move from your home.

#### Compelling Reasons NOT To Use Electronic Fences

##### Cons

**As a general rule, Indiana-PAW discourages citizens from relying on electronic fences.**

- An electronic fence will NOT guarantee your dog's safety. Tragically, every year, many dogs are killed when they run through their electronic fences, escape and are hit by cars, etc. Many dogs are willing to be shocked to get out of the yard.
- An electronic fence will NOT stop people from entering your yard and approaching your dog.
- An electronic fence will NOT stop another animal from entering your yard and potentially harming your dog.
- An electronic fence will NOT stop a dog bite from occurring, because people can still reach into your yard, despite your electronic fence.
- An electronic fence will NOT take the place of training.
- An electronic fence will NOT work if the batteries run down.

- An electronic fence will NOT work if you have a power outage.
- An electronic fence will NOT work if landscapers or utility workers accidentally cut the lines without your knowledge.
- If your dog does break through the barrier on your electronic fence, he may not be able to get back into the yard.
- If you install an electronic fence and your dog does break through it, or gets too close to the barrier and is shocked, remember that the shock from the collar may cause behavioral problems in your dog.
- If you install an electronic fence, keep in mind that it will likely become less effective the more dogs you have in the yard.
- An electronic fence may cause severe reactions to dogs with medical conditions.
- An electronic fence will still cause a shock if the owner forgets the collar is on and drags the dog across the boundary.

***Ideally, your pet should never be left unsupervised outside, regardless of what type of fence you have – electronic or traditional.***

**Suggested Reading**

- Dog Bite Law. Electronic Pet Containment and Liability for Dog Bites  
<http://www.dogbitelaw.com/PAGES/fence.htm>
- PAWS: Resources and Fact Sheets  
[http://www.paws.org/cas/resources/fact\\_sheets\\_dogs/confiningdog.php](http://www.paws.org/cas/resources/fact_sheets_dogs/confiningdog.php)

**Important Note:** Indiana-PAW's POINTS TO PAWNDER SERIES is intended to provide quick tips to help citizens address common pet health and behavior questions. It is not intended to replace consultation with one's veterinarian and/or a trained behavior specialist.