

Two dogs, a nice eating pig, a rifle and the 1902NCP collars

# Dogmaster Training Systems

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## DOGTRA 1902NCP ELECTRIC COLLAR AND TRACKER ADVENTURE LIGHT REVIEW

**Dogmaster Systems imports a wide range of products related to keeping and training dogs.**

Part of this range consists of a number of types of electric or 'E' collars.

Nearly every farmer and hunter in New Zealand who works dogs at distance will be familiar with the benefits of 'E' collars when used correctly.

### DOGTRA 1902NCP

David from Dogmaster sent me the Dogtra 1902NCP. The Dogtra range is the most robust of the 'E' collars that they stock and these are a good option for hunters and farmers who will give the collars a hard time. And that was David's comment to me "You can try and break this unit through hard use but I guarantee you won't!"

The 1902NCP would be classed as a mid-range collar. It has a range of up to 800m with two collars run off the one hand unit. Their top of the line model will take four collars and has a range of 1.6 kms if you feel you need more. First impressions were of a very well made unit. I was impressed at

how small the transmitter was and the aerial was only 50mm long. It fitted easily into my pocket. David also supplied a longer 160mm aerial which is available as an extra.

#### Here are some further specs for the 1902NCP:

- Collars and transmitter are waterproof and rechargeable
- Includes a low battery indicator
- Continuous, nick and vibration options
- 128 different levels of stimulation with easy dial up
- Blue LCD screen on transmitter
- Two year warranty
- 999 different frequencies to help avoid crossover with another user in the field.

I run a team of three pig dogs; one older bitch and two 'up and coming' youngsters. My two young bitches were proof on stock, goats and deer but they had shown a bit of interest in tracking hares occasionally.

*The 1902NCP as it comes. Complete with an instructional DVD on how to use an E collar*



Holly is pretty tough, while Kiri is softer natured so it was important to customize the level of stimulation they received. This was easily achieved on the hill with the dial on the transmitter and the digital screen.

One evening I purposely took them to a large open block with a number of hares on it. The dogs cruised off and I sat up on a high point with the binos watching them go. A hare moved out of a gully and over a spur at 500m and Kiri crossed the scent trail two minutes later. Still full of beans at the start of the hunt, she dropped her nose on the ground and started tracking.

I turned the dial to a low level and pressed the button. The reaction was immediate and she lost all interest

in that scent trail. Holly crossed the scent trail soon after that and when her nose hit the trail, I pressed the button. She did not react at the level Kiri did but it was a simple case of turning up the dial 10 more points - and then the results were immediate. Too easy! The bitches did not associate me with the shock and there was very little sulking after that.

**Twenty minutes later, they ran into a hare and stopped and looked at it.** They did not chase it but I used the nick button on them both as a gentle reminder and the hare was left alone. Hare number three was ignored completely. Success.

An hour later, they put in a good find and stop on a 135 lb boar, proving that they had not lost any enthusiasm for the pigs. I ran the two bitches with the collars on for a number of hunts over the summer. The collars were subjected to both holding and bailing pigs as well as being regularly submerged and generally given a tough time. At no time did the collars or the transmitter play up or let me down.

**This is a refreshing change from a number of 'E' collars I have seen used in the past that were unreliable.** I lent the system to a hill country farmer who ran them on his team of dogs. Like me, he enjoyed the positive easy way that he could change

the level of stimulation depending on the dog. And once again, the collars didn't miss a beat. The longer aerial was also tried. I found it slightly more positive than the short aerial in heavy cover at a distance. I also tried it out at known ranges with the indicator light and on my leg and found that I could extend the collar's effective range by about 200m over the shorter aerial.

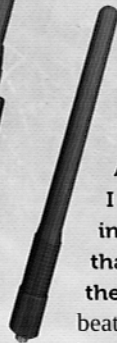
## TRACKER ADVENTURE LIGHT

**When David sent the Dogtra 1902 unit to me, he added two Tracker adventure lights for me to try as well.** Essentially, these little lights are a flashing or continuous LED that can be turned on or off by twisting them. They are mounted inside a rubber housing that threads on to the collar. I could straightaway see a use for them when night hunting so I ran them on my dogs in the dark.

I was amazed at how good they were. I was able to keep tabs on my dogs easily and spent a lot less time peering at my tracking gear. I did not see any case of the pigs or dogs being spooked or put off by the light and bailed boars did not appear to pick on the dog with the light on. A mate of mine tried one and he could see the light clearly on a dog one night as it worked on the

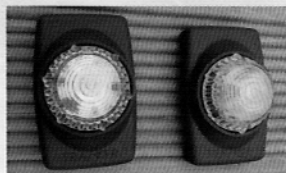


*The transmitter with longer aerial option*



opposite side of the valley under mature native 1.2 kms away!

**At David's suggestion, I froze one of the lights in a bowl of ice and when thawed, I ran it over with the ute.** It never missed a beat - they are rugged! I think these lights are a must for night hunting and with a battery life of 250 hours, I am still using the original batteries in them.



## CONCLUSION

The Dogtra 1902NCP is a quality set of electric collars and I could not fault their performance. They are the best I have used. I know of six farmers who have got rid of other brands in the last two years and replaced them with Dogtra units and have had no trouble since. The Tracker adventure lights are also a great little invention. For people who walk or use dogs at night, I would recommend that you give these a try.

