Dog Whistle Trainer review: does a phone dog whistle actually work?

A free offline whistle, clicker and 50+ command cards for iPhone and Android, with three guided programs and no data collected.

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Dog Whistle Trainer is a free offline dog-training app for iPhone and Android that pairs an adjustable high-frequency whistle with a low-latency clicker, 50+ command cards and three guided programs. It has no ads, no account and no in-app purchases, and its Google Play listing declares that no user data is collected.

Disclosure: AppStoryo is operated by the studio that develops Dog Whistle Trainer. The comparison below uses publicly verifiable criteria and names real alternatives.

What is Dog Whistle Trainer, and who is it for?

Dog Whistle Trainer is a training aid, not a remote control for your dog. It gives you three tools a handler would otherwise carry separately: a tone generator you can tune to your dog, a clicker for marking the exact moment a behaviour happens, and 50+ command cards with hand signals and troubleshooting notes. Around those sits a plan: guided programs, multi-dog profiles and weekly progress summaries.

It suits owners who already understand that the whistle is a cue and the reward is the lesson. Released on 17 July 2026 at version 1.0, the iPhone build is 28 MB, needs iOS 13.0 or later and covers 44 App Store languages; the Android listing passed 100 downloads and was updated on 26 July 2026.

Dog Whistle Trainer & Clicker is free on the App Store and Dog Whistle Trainer Pro is free on Google Play, with nothing to unlock.

Can a phone speaker really produce a dog whistle tone?

Mostly yes, and the reason surprises people. The reference product here is the Acme 535, invented in 1935 and still sold; Acme publishes its range as 5,400 Hz to 12,800 Hz. That is not ultrasound. It sits inside the band an ordinary phone speaker reproduces, and inside the band most adults faintly hear, which is why the maker puts the word silent in inverted commas.

The hearing data explains why that band was chosen. Louisiana State University's veterinary comparison of hearing ranges across species puts the dog at roughly 67 Hz to 45,000 Hz against 64 Hz to 23,000 Hz for humans, but the more useful figure is where dogs are most **sensitive**: 4 kHz to 10 kHz. In the same dataset, tones near 46,000 Hz were only detected at 64 to 73 dB — very high frequencies must be very loud before a dog notices them.

So the honest claim is that Dog Whistle Trainer works in the band that matters, not that it replaces an ultrasonic device. The audio pipeline is not the limit: Android has supported sample rates up to 192 kHz since API level 23. The speaker is, which is why the app routes to it deliberately instead of to headphones.

What do the three training programs actually cover?

Three programs ship free: 21-day recall, 14-day anti-bark and 10-day loose-leash. Each is a day-by-day sequence rather than a video course, which is the right shape for the problem. Recall and leash walking fail through inconsistency, not ignorance, and a plan that names today's two-minute session removes the decision that makes people skip it.

The anti-bark program is the one worth reading carefully. It is a redirection plan, not a punishment plan, and the app's own store listing is blunt about the difference:

> Never use sound to scare or punish your dog.

That line matters more than any feature list, because a tone loud enough to startle a barking dog is an aversive, and the evidence on aversives is not ambiguous.

The three programs ship inside the free download: Dog Whistle Trainer & Clicker on iPhone or Dog Whistle Trainer Pro on Android.

Is the clicker the part that actually matters?

Probably, yes. The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior's 2021 position statement on humane dog training names the clicker explicitly as a tool a reward-based trainer uses to mark a behaviour, and recommends reward-based methods for all dog training with no exceptions. Its list of techniques to avoid names sound-based intimidation such as shaker cans and compressed air.

The statement cites 21 references, including Hiby and colleagues in 2004, who found obedience highest in dogs trained only with rewards, and China and colleagues in 2020, who found no advantage for electronic collars over reward-based methods for recall. A whistle app is only as humane as the plan around it, and the marker is doing most of the work.

Which dog whistle app should you actually use?

Choose iTrainer Dog Whistle & Clicker if you want the most tooling

- Jade Lizard Software LLC, free, version 11.0 dated 24 December 2025, with 33,430 App Store ratings averaging 4.46 — by far the largest rated base in this niche.
- Adds home-screen, lock-screen and Control Center widgets, an Apple Watch app, custom sound recording, 20+ squeaker sounds and 100+ animal sounds.
- Includes an e-collar mode reproducing the tones electronic collars use, which some handlers want and others will read as the opposite of the AVSAB position. Requires iOS 17.0 and 68 MB.

Choose Dogo if you want a curriculum rather than a whistle

- Dogo App GmbH, version 10.51.1 dated 3 September 2026, 17,193 ratings averaging 4.83 — the highest average of the four apps here.
- 12 structured programs and 100+ guided videos, with trainer feedback on clips you upload.
- Free for a 7-day trial, then a monthly or 12-month subscription is required; the download is 493 MB and nothing works offline.

Choose Dog Whistler if you mainly want a frequency slider

- Mobeezio, Inc., free, 1,970 ratings averaging 3.61, English only.
- Manual frequency entry plus oscillation and beep patterns, and it can turn a tone into a ringtone.
- Version 3.32.1 dates from 13 December 2024, more than 20 months without an update, and its own listing markets it partly for pranks.

Choose Dog Whistle Trainer if you want the plan and the privacy

- Free with no trial, no subscription and no in-app purchases, 28 MB, iOS 13.0 or later, supporting 130 device models and 44 App Store languages.
- Three day-by-day programs, 50+ commands with hand signals, multi-dog profiles and a frequency wizard, all working offline.
- Google Play Data safety reports no data collected and no data shared with third parties, and the app has no advertising SDK to feed.

When is Dog Whistle Trainer the wrong app?

It is the wrong app if you expect the whistle itself to fix a behaviour, or if you want a genuinely ultrasonic tone: the hardware in your pocket is not built for it. Video coaching and trainer feedback are Dogo's job; widgets, a watch app and e-collar tones are iTrainer's.

Two more limits are worth stating plainly. At version 1.0 with no public rating on either store, there is no crowd verdict to lean on, and the two stores use different names — Dog Whistle Trainer & Clicker on iOS, Dog Whistle Trainer Pro on Google Play — which makes it harder to find than it should be. No app substitutes for a veterinary behaviourist when a dog is fearful

or aggressive.

If that description fits your dog, Dog Whistle Trainer & Clicker and Dog Whistle Trainer Pro cost nothing to try and take 28 MB.

Frequently asked questions about Dog Whistle Trainer

Is Dog Whistle Trainer free?

Yes, on both stores, and free means free here: no advertising, no accounts, no subscription and no in-app purchases. The three training programs, all 50+ command cards, the clicker and the frequency wizard are included in the 28 MB download. Dogo, by contrast, requires a subscription after its 7-day trial.

Does it produce ultrasound, and can humans hear it?

Not ultrasound in the strict sense: that starts above roughly 20,000 Hz and phone speakers are not built to radiate energy there. You will often hear the tone faintly, especially if you are young, because the LSU data puts the top of human hearing near 23,000 Hz. It works anyway, because dogs are most sensitive between 4,000 and 10,000 Hz, which any phone reproduces easily.

Will the whistle stop my dog barking?

Not on its own, and using it to startle a dog would be an aversive method. AVSAB recommends reward-based training with no exceptions and names sound-based intimidation among the techniques to avoid. The 14-day anti-bark program in Dog Whistle Trainer is built around redirection and rewarding quiet, which is the approach the evidence supports.

Does it work without an internet connection?

Yes. Everything runs on the device: tones, clicker, command library, programs and progress tracking. There is no server and no account, so a walk with no signal changes nothing. The Google Play Data safety section reports no data collected and none shared with third parties.

Why does the app play through the speaker and not my headphones?

Because the dog has to hear it, not you. Routing to AirPods, a hearing aid or a car stereo would send the cue to the wrong animal, so audio goes to the phone speaker and plays even with the ringer silenced. Volume is capped, which also protects the ears nearest the phone.

Which frequency should I use for my dog?

There is no single correct number, which is why the app ships a wizard that walks through candidate pitches and records what your dog responds to. Hearing varies with age and breed, and older dogs lose high frequencies first. Start in the 5,000 to 13,000 Hz region the Acme 535 covers, then adjust to your dog's reaction.

Is it safe for my dog's ears?

The app caps output volume rather than leaving it to the media slider, which is the main hardware safeguard. The behavioural risk matters more: a tone used to startle is an

aversive, and AVSAB links aversive methods to higher cortisol and stress behaviours such as lip licking and yawning. Short sessions, moderate volume and a reward every time keep the cue neutral.

Can I use it for more than one dog?

Yes. Multi-dog profiles are part of the free app, each with its own preferred frequency, command progress and streaks, which is the feature fosterers and small shelters ask for first. Weekly insights are reported per dog, so a slow learner is visible instead of being averaged away by a fast one.

Pros

- Free with no ads, no account, no subscription and no in-app purchases
- Three day-by-day programs: 21-day recall, 14-day anti-bark, 10-day loose-leash
- 50+ commands with hand signals and troubleshooting notes
- Frequency wizard finds a pitch your own dog responds to
- Google Play Data safety reports no data collected and none shared
- Everything works offline; 28 MB and 44 App Store languages
- Audio is routed to the phone speaker and volume-capped by design

Cons

- Phone speakers cannot deliver a genuinely ultrasonic tone
- Version 1.0 with no public rating on either store yet
- Different names on the two stores makes the app hard to find
- No widgets, Apple Watch app or custom sound recording
- No video coaching or trainer feedback on your technique
- Three programs only, against 12 in the leading subscription app

Summary

A free offline trainer that treats the whistle as a cue and the clicker as the lesson. Three day-by-day programs, 50+ command cards with hand signals, multi-dog profiles and a frequency wizard run entirely on the device, with no ads, no account and no data collected. The honest limit is physical rather than software: a phone speaker works in the 5,400 to 12,800 Hz band the classic Acme 535 whistle covers, which is where dogs are most sensitive anyway, but it is not an ultrasonic device. Handlers who want widgets, a watch app or e-collar tones should look at iTrainer; handlers who want video coaching and trainer feedback should look at Dogo and budget for a subscription. What this app offers instead is a plan, privacy and nothing to buy.

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