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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Public Affairs Manager
The Kennel Club

Our ref: 2017/0034747
gh October 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 September inviting the First Minister to attend The Kennel Club's roundtable discussion on electronic training collars for dogs being held in the Scottish Parliament on Wednesday 8 November 2017.

Unfortunately, due to considerable diary pressures, the First Minister regrets that she will be unable to accept your kind invitation.

The First Minister has asked me to pass on her best wishes for a successful discussion.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Diary Team Manager

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2017 10:30:09
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Invite to KC/SKC roundtable discussion on electronic training aids

PEU

Grateful if you could put this on MACCS, as a diary case for signature by FM Private Office Diary Team Manager, [REDACTED]

Cheers

[REDACTED]
[cid:image008.jpg@01D331FB.6E9383F0]<<https://firstminister.gov.scot/>>

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<<https://www.facebook.com/TheScottishGovernment>>

[cid:image007.png@01D331FB.6BE5F020] <<http://www.instagram.com/scotgov>>

[REDACTED] | First Minister's Diary Team | 5th Floor | St Andrew's House |
Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]@gov.scot>

From: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP [mailto:Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot]

Sent: 18 September 2017 15:06

To: First Minister

Subject: Fwd: Invite to KC/SKC roundtable discussion on electronic training aids

Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Glasgow Southside
Constituency Office (constituent enquiries only)
Unit 3
Govanhill Workspace
69 Dixon Road
G42 8AT
Tel: 0141 424 1174
nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot<<mailto:nicola.sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>>

From:

[REDACTED]@thekennelclub.org.uk<[mailto:\[REDACTED\]@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@thekennelclub.org.uk)>

>>

Sent: Monday, September 18, 2017 2:17:18 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP
Subject: Re: Invite to KC/SKC roundtable discussion on electronic training aids

Dear Ms Sturgeon,

The Kennel Club and Scottish Kennel Club are organising a roundtable discussion on electronic shock training aids hosted by Maurice Golden in The Livingstone Room, Committee Room 6, from 6pm-8pm on Wednesday 8th November. We would very much like to invite you to attend. The discussion will be chaired by Presenter/Producer Andrew White, and we will also be joined by TV Vet and Pupaid Founder Marc Abraham, and dog behaviourist, writer and broadcaster, Carolyn Menteith. We will also be joined by representatives from the main welfare organisations, and other leading vets, behaviourists and academics.

The reason we are organising this is because the Scottish Government has undertaken extensive consultation over the past few years as to whether to ban electronic training aids. The Kennel Club (along with many others) believe they should be completely banned - as they are in Wales. However we are growing increasingly concerned, firstly, by the lack of progress in this area, and secondly, by the possibility that when regulations are introduced, that there may be caveats for vets and behaviourists to advocate the use of electronic training aids -so effectively licence them.

The Kennel Club Accredited Instructors programme (KCAI), specifically prohibits the use of these types of devices and we know other similar organisations do too. However, because trainers and behaviourists are totally unregulated and not obliged to be members of such associations, or indeed to adhere to any professional code of conduct, we are very concerned that unscrupulous dog trainers will set themselves up in business advocating their use. Our concerns are further compounded by recent events being held in Scotland encouraging dog owners to use electronic training aids. An advert for one of these is below:

[?E-COLLAR WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY 15th, 22nd & 23rd FEBRUARY WITH
ALL DATES ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED THIS WORKSHOP
IS SUITABLE FOR ANY BREED OF DOG, SIZE & FOR ANY BEHAVIOURAL
ISSUES.ALL WELCOME. A THIRD DATE HAS BEEN ADDED BUT THERE
ARE ONLY TWO SPACES REMAINING. Are you having issues with your dog?
Anything ranging from recall, destruction, aggression, separation issues, in fact
anything then this may be the answer. There is a lot of speculation as to what an e-
collar is & what it can actually do. The usual response when it's mentioned is that they
are cruel & that your dog receives an electric shock the dog will then become "shut
down", the list goes on. I will admit I was very sceptical but having seen the results
that have not been managed by other methods, they can only be seen as a positive
tool. Why not come along and see the proof for yourself. There will be dogs there
with issues ranging from no recall, also known as selective hearing!, to aggression
towards other dogs. This will be the first time these dogs will have worn an e-collar so
you will be seeing how they work right from the beginning. These problems limit the
owners as to where they can walk their dog & the amount of exercise the dog can
have. I'm sure we would all love to let our dogs off the lead no matter where we take
them. These collars are also known as freedom collars & that's exactly what they will

allow your dog to do. Please message me if you are interested for costs.]

We believe it is imperative that regulations banning electronic training aids are brought forward as a priority. To RSVP please contact [REDACTED]@thekennelclub.org.uk<mailto:[REDACTED]>

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Public Affairs Manager
The Kennel Club

*

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PS Minute
ADVICE FOR: NICOLA STURGEON

MACCS Case Number:	2017/0034747	Respond by: 19/10/2017	
Correspondent/Organisation:	[REDACTED], Public Affairs Manager, The Kennel Club		
Date and time of Event:	Wednesday 8 November 2017		
Location of Event:	Committee Room 6. The Scottish Parliament		
Overview of invitation and audience profile:	<p>Invitation to attend a roundtable discussion on electronic training collars for dogs (also known by many as "shock collars") hosted by Maurice Golden MSP.</p> <p>The discussion will be chaired by Andrew White, Presenter/Producer "Walks around Britain"; and attended by MSPs (not known at this date), animal welfare organisations, vets, dog behaviourists and academics.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>		
Has the Minister been asked to attend of behalf of FM?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/>
RECOMMENDATION:	<p>Decline</p> <p>The Kennel Club and The Scottish Kennel Club are dog welfare organisations who are mainly involved in the breeding and breeding standards of dogs (to which there are a number of negative aspects such as breathing problems for some breeds of dogs); and run the Kennel Club Accredited Instructors programme (KCAI), in which instructors follow a positive and reward based only training programme to train potential dog trainers.</p> <p>The roundtable discussion is a lobbying opportunity for the Kennel Club, and the other animal welfare groups, to give only one side of a very emotive subject.</p> <p>The Kennel Club follows a positive reinforcement and reward based training programme; and have voiced their disappointment that the SG made the decision to regulate, rather than ban, the use of electronic training collars. This will provide them a further opportunity to share those views with MSPs.</p> <p>It is unlikely that trainers who use electronic collars have been invited to the event. If any these trainers do attend it would allow MSPs to hear a more balanced view on the potential of these devices.</p>		

PS Minute

Scottish Government position

On 4 October 2016, the SG announced its intention to introduce tough new laws to tightly control the use of electronic training collars. This was reiterated in the Programme for Government in September 2017.

Regulations will allow the beneficial use of high quality training collars under supervision while minimising the potential misuse of easily available low quality devices; and will allow the continued use of these collars when other training methods have proven ineffective.

SG are working with electronic collar trainers and manufacturers to develop an SVQ which will train them to work in a more regulated way; and produce welfare guidance which will be the basis of the new regulations.

Officials will be present at the roundtable discussion and will reinforce the commitment given by the Scottish Government.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If recommendation is to accept, has this advice been agreed with your Head of Division? Yes No

Has another Minister been asked to attend:

[REDACTED]

Main theme that the event supports:

Please provide an overview of SG policy that the event links to (High level and in bullet points)

Main purpose of attending:

(Tick as many as apply)

- Explain new policy or a major policy shift
- Reinforce or illustrate existing policy
- Improve relations with stakeholders
- Encourage participation in consultation
- Recognise contribution to policy implementation
- Announce funding
- Other (please specify):

Main message to communicate:

[REDACTED]

Most appropriate type of Ministerial input:

No formal role. Participate in round table discussion

Private Office view:

[REDACTED]

Private Office contact:

[REDACTED]

PS Minute

Communications Office view:	Comments:	[REDACTED]
	Communications Office contact:	[REDACTED]
Action Officer:	[REDACTED]	

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 October 2017 09:48
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Williams B (Beverley); Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BVA meeting with Roseanna Cunningham on 31 October - request for briefing
Attachments: BVA Briefing - 31 October 2017 - Electronic training collars.docx

[REDACTED]

Please find attached a briefing note on electronic training collars (aversive training aids) as requested.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2017 12:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Williams B (Beverley); [REDACTED]; Voas AP (Andrew)
Subject: RE: BVA meeting with Roseanna Cunningham on 31 October - request for briefing

Apologies [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed an amended version – with updated quote from BVA.

Cheers,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 October 2017 12:08
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Williams B (Beverley); [REDACTED]; Voas AP (Andrew)
Subject: RE: BVA meeting with Roseanna Cunningham on 31 October - request for briefing

Thanks [REDACTED].

Please find enclosed a contribution on [REDACTED]

Please do let me know if this is agreeable – if you wish it reformatted or edited etc , then do please give me a shout.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 October 2017 14:14
To: Williams B (Beverley); [Redacted]
Cc: [Redacted] Voas S (Sheila); Gallego J (Jesus); Voas S (Sheila)
Subject: BVA meeting with Roseanna Cunningham on 31 October - request for briefing

Dear all

Roseanna Cunningham is meeting with the BVA on Tuesday 31 October. You provided me with briefing earlier in the year for the BVA Annual Scottish Dinner that should hopefully still be current or not need much updating.

I am waiting for an agenda for the meeting but in the meantime, I have picked out the relevant sections that will need to be included in the briefing for Ms Cunningham.

- [Redacted]
- Electronic training aids
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Can I ask you to review the briefing you provided for the BVA dinner and provide me with an updated version by **Friday 20 October**? If you could also let me know of any other issues that should be included in the briefing that would be great. I might be back in touch to request further briefing once I get an agenda for the meeting.

Attached the link to the BVA dinner briefing pack for reference.

Thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]. **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Sent: 29 June 2017 14:00
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

[Redacted]

Please see below that they will forward agenda and attendees in due course.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

 **The Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED]@bva.co.uk]
Sent: 29 June 2017 13:54
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

Hi [REDACTED]
That's great news. Thanks so much for arranging it. We'll be in touch a bit nearer the time regarding an agenda and names of attendees.
Will the meeting be in the Scottish Parliament or at St Andrew's House?
Best wishes
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 June 2017 13:50
To: [REDACTED]@bva.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

Hi [REDACTED],

Was nice to speak to you on the phone just now.
I can confirm that we have now firmed up a meeting on the 31st October at 4pm.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

 **The Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED]@bva.co.uk]
Sent: 24 June 2017 06:44
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

Dear [REDACTED]

I am sorry but 1.45pm on 1 November might be a bit difficult as the two officers who would be attending the meeting with the Cabinet Secretary need to be in London by 5.00pm that day. I wonder if there's any chance of a meeting during the morning of 1 November; first thing would be ideal. Or is there any possible time on the 31st October?

Hopefully we can sort something out.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] (BVA)
Sent: 23 June 2017 14:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

Dear [REDACTED]
Many thanks. I'll confirm asap.
Best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] On Behalf Of [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 June 2017 13:54
To: [REDACTED]@bva.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

Dear [REDACTED],

Many thanks for getting in touch.
Ms Cunningham has availability on Wednesday 1st November at 13:45, is that suitable?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary
Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
2N.08 - St Andrews House - Regent Road – Edinburgh - EH1 3DG

Tel: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

 **The Scottish Government**

From: [REDACTED]@bva.co.uk]
Sent: 23 June 2017 11:16
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Subject: FW: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov
Importance: High

From: [REDACTED] (BVA)
Sent: 23 June 2017 11:13
To: [REDACTED] @gov.scot
Cc: Sheila Voas <Sheila.Voas@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] @bva.co.uk>
Subject: BVA/BVA Scottish Branch request for a meeting with Roseanna Cunningham: 31 Oct or 1 Nov

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm sorry things didn't work out for a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary this side of the summer recess.

We're now making plans to hold a reception and briefing at the Scottish Parliament, 6pm-8pm on Tuesday 31 October, to which the Cabinet Secretary will be invited; and we wondered whether the Cabinet Secretary would be available for a short meeting with us sometime during that day (31 Oct) or on the Wednesday (1 Nov).

I look forward to hearing you.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Public Affairs Manager
British Veterinary Association

[REDACTED]
Out of hours: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] @bva.co.uk

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Policy team: 020 7908 6370 or policy@bva.co.uk
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[REDACTED]

.....
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
.....

Electronic training collars (Aversive training aids)

Top lines

- The First Minister made a commitment in the Programme for Government 2017/18 to tightly control the use of electronic dog training collars to allow responsible use under supervision while minimising the potential for misuse.
- The Scottish Government understands there are different methods of training dogs and consider these may be equally effective and valid as long as the welfare of the animal is protected.
- The Scottish Government understands that good quality electronic collars can be used at low settings without causing pain and suffering to the animal.

BVA Position

- Have concerns that the use of electronic training collars are open to potential abuse and incorrect use of these devices have the potential to cause welfare and training problems. Recommend positive reinforcement training methods.
- Have called for a complete ban on the sale and use of static pulse training collars (remote training and anti-bark collars) to help protect animal welfare. Welfare concerns include difficulty in accurately judging the level of electric pulse to apply to a dog without causing unnecessary suffering.
- Note that there is a lack of research into other electronic training collars (sonic, vibration and spray) and recommend that further evidence is collected on their use and effectiveness. Have called for a code of practice, as well as regulation on the sale of these devices and manufacturer's instructions, to ensure that the potential adverse effects of use are highlighted to owners and consumers.

Background

- On 4 October 2016 the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform announced that the Scottish Government would be introducing strict new regulations to tightly control the use of electronic training collars. It was noted that that these devices can cause pain and suffering and, as such, would only be permitted where other training methods had proven ineffective and under professional guidance only.
- The announcement followed a public consultation which ran between 6 November 2015 and 29 January 2016, and received 1032 responses. The results were mixed – 44% of respondents were in favour of a ban on certain devices; 5% sought stricter regulation; 10% were in favour of a mixture of a ban and regulations; 9% favoured guidance or a statutory welfare code; and 28% felt that current legislation was sufficient.
- The regulations will be based on a code of practice drawn up in conjunction with trainers and other stakeholders which will define how the different type of

electronic training collars can be used. The Code will also set out best practice and minimum standards required when training with an electronic collar.

- Discussions have taken place with stakeholders from the pet industry, animal training and animal welfare sectors. These discussions include the qualifications required to become an approved trainer and the circumstances in which these devices should be used.
- The Scottish Government would authorise qualified trainers to supervise the use of electronic collars by pet owners. Authorised trainers would have a written agreement with clients specifying the precise type of collar to be used and how it should be used in their clients' own circumstances. This should overcome concerns about cheap sub-standard collars that give excessive or unreliable stimuli.
- Discussions are on-going with electronic collar trainers and manufacturers on the development of an accredited training programme and qualification.
- The possible involvement of veterinary professionals in approving the use of devices was discussed with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. They have indicated that they would have little interest in being involved as do not consider dog training to be an act of veterinary surgery.



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[REDACTED]

From: Voas AP (Andrew)
Sent: 31 October 2017 13:16
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: electronic training aids - invite to KC/SKC proposed event.

Dear [REDACTED]

Could you confirm if any of the trainers who use electronic collars were invited to this event to provide a balanced discussion?

Ms Cunningham is not planning to attend this meeting as far as I am aware, but I will be happy to give an update on the Scottish Government position towards the end.

Regards
Andrew

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS
Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD / Tel: [REDACTED] andrew.voas@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]@thekennelclub.org.uk]
Sent: 31 October 2017 12:39
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Voas AP (Andrew); [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: electronic training aids - Invite to KC/SKC proposed event.

Hello [REDACTED]

I hope you are well and we look forward to seeing you next week.

At the moment, attendance at the meeting looks to be better than expected and there are quite a few MSPs who have said they will come along. Sometimes, I know other things come up and that they are then unable to, but given this initial commitment, we wondered if perhaps the Minister would like to say a few words perhaps towards the end of the meeting?

Let me know if you think this would be appropriate.

You should have the delegate list as I circulated this earlier today.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot]
Sent: 09 August 2017 09:10
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Andrew.Voas@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: electronic training aids - invite to KC/SKC proposed event.

Good morning,

I refer to your email below to [REDACTED] about a proposed event in the Scottish Parliament on 8 November 2017.

I can advise that both Andrew Voas and I would be available to attend. I will put a hold in our calendars.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@thekennelclub.org.uk]
Sent: 08 August 2017 14:21
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: electronic training aids - invite to KC/SKC proposed event.

Hello [REDACTED]

I hope you are well.

I just wanted to let you know that we are organising a round table event in the Scottish Parliament, on Weds 8th November from 6pm-8pm. We are hoping to bring together vets, behaviourists, academics and welfare organisations, as well as some MSPs to discuss the topic of electronic training aids.

We would very much like it if you were there.

A formal invite will follow, but I wanted to check availability at this stage.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Public Affairs Manager
The Kennel Club

[REDACTED] m

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

.....

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2017 13:55
To: Voas AP (Andrew)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: E-collars - Meeting with trainers - 25 January 2017.

Tracking: **Recipient** **Read**
Voas AP (Andrew) Read: 06/02/2017 14:10
[REDACTED]

Andrew

Please find attached a draft note of meeting. I fear I may have missed some points during the course of the meeting but I hope I picked up on most of them.

Would welcome any changes to the note.

I have added some comments to the document – more as a reminder for me to action/speak to you about at a later date.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: [REDACTED]



Electronic
Training Aids - ...

Scottish Government – Animal Welfare Team
Dog Trainers/Behaviourists re Electronic Training Collars
Wednesday 25th January 2017
11:00 – 13:00

Attendees

Andrew Voas, Veterinary Adviser, Animal Welfare Branch
[REDACTED] Policy Officer, Animal Welfare Branch

[REDACTED]

Key points of meeting

Electronic training devices

- E-collars are seen as a negative tool however balanced trainers advise that they are a useful communication tool when used with a balanced training programme (incorporating positive training into the programme).
- Two major issues with e-collars – bad devices which are freely available on the market; and dog owners not having the correct knowledge or training available to use the collars correctly.

Regulations

- Welcome the Scottish Government's intention to introduce regulations to control the use of e-collars (electronic training collars).
- Use of e-collars should not be restricted to "last resort" use only. Useful training device when used as part of a training programme.
- Should only be used as part of a training/conditioning programme set by the trainer. Training programmes would be set for each individual dog.
- Could trainers be held to account for any later incorrect use of a collar by a client they had trained? How could their use be monitored outwith the training setting? Suggested that spot checks could be undertaken by a professional dog training body.
- Suggested that the device/collar itself could be regulated – for example the specification of the collars being used - and possibly the trainer having control to which collar is used by each client.

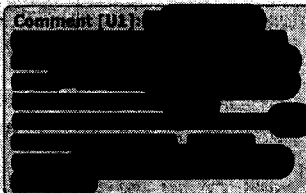
- Wording of regulations would have to be carefully considered: they are firstly used as communication devices; aversive/punishment/negative should be replaced with unpleasant; and interruption of unwanted behaviour.

Association of Balanced Trainers and approved trainers

- Very few professional dog training bodies support the use of e-collars. (International Association of Canine Professionals (IACP))
- Indicated that they were forming a professional body in Scotland "Association of Balanced Trainers" which supports the use of e-collar training. Use e-collars as part of a balanced training programme.
- Collars can be used in two ways (training and conditioning; and treatment of behaviour issues such as aggression) and this indicates that two levels of trainers may be required (obedience training and behavioural reconditioning).

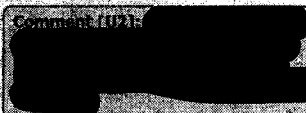
E-collar training qualification

- Unregulated industry and no formally recognised training course or qualification for dog trainers in Scotland.
- Advised of Lantra National Occupational Standards (NOS) on Dog Training and Behaviour, and SG intention to include a level of training in regulations for "approved trainer" within its Code of Practice for e-collar training. The starting point for training could be the Lantra NOS.
- Trainers to put forward suggestions to be included in respect of training required for an approved trainer (including training required in the use of e-collars). Require correct procedures for training with e-collars
- Current e-collar trainers may be reluctant to undertake a training programme to gain qualifications if they are currently training successfully with these devices. Would any future course only be required by new trainers? Possibility that regulations could include *Grandfather Rights* for current e-collar dog trainers.



Code of Practice

- Indicated that the Regulations would be supported by a Code of Practice (code of ethics) on the correct use of e-collars.
- This will set out conditions for the use of collars including how they should be used; minimum specifications of the collars itself; assessments by approved trainers before recommendation of an e-collar; training required by the client before use; who will monitor the use of the collars; a written record with clients (disclaimer form or contract);
- Any code of practice would require approval from stakeholders including trainers, BVA, BSAVA etc



Boundary Fence or "Freedom Fence" system

- A small number of trainers indicated that they had experience of freedom fence systems.

Negative Press

- Negative press around electronic collars. Recent coverage included articles in the Sun and Courier of gundog trainer who demonstrated use of e-collar on himself.
- It was agreed that positive press was required on balanced training with electronic collars.
- When the Regulations are enforced there could perhaps be media/social media around how collars should be used correctly.
- [REDACTED]
- Cyber bullying – Advised that a number of the balanced trainers had been subject to cyber bullying over their use of electronic collars. Have asked whether there is potential for approved trainers to be protected against cyber-bullying in the new regulations.

[REDACTED]

From: Voas AP (Andrew)
Sent: 22 February 2017 17:44
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Agenda for RCVS certification meeting on 1 March
Attachments: PAPER FOR RCVS - E-COLLARS.docx; PAPER FOR [REDACTED] (2).docx
Categories: File

[REDACTED]

A couple of papers for the committee as discussed. I look forward to seeing you on 1 March.
Regards
Andrew

From: Voas AP (Andrew)
Sent: 15 February 2017 10:53
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Agenda for certification meeting on 1 March

[REDACTED]

Yes this would be ideal for me and very helpful thanks. We will send some briefing papers in the next few days.
Regards
Andrew

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS
Scottish Government Veterinary Adviser / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD /
Tel: [REDACTED] andrew.voas@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]@rcvs.org.uk]
Sent: 14 February 2017 10:31
To: Voas AP (Andrew)
Subject: RE: Agenda for certification meeting on 1 March

Hi Andrew,

Apologies for the delay in responding - we would greatly appreciate the chance to meet up with you after the main meeting to discuss these specific issues relevant to the new Scottish legislation.

Would it suit you if we set aside the hour following the meeting for this purpose (2.30-3.30pm)?

Thank you for the offer of providing some brief papers on these issues, that would be really useful for the Certification sub-committee to have beforehand if possible (if we have left you sufficient time to do that).

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]
Senior Advice Officer

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62-64 Horseferry Road
London

SW1P 2AF

T: [REDACTED]
F: [REDACTED]
www.rcvs.org.uk

Connect with us...



From: Andrew.Voas@gov.scot [mailto:Andrew.Voas@gov.scot]
Sent: 02 February 2017 15:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Agenda for certification meeting on 1 March

Dear [REDACTED]

I am planning to attend the meeting being arranged by [REDACTED] between APHA, UK governments and the RCVS certification sub-committee on 1 March. There are a couple of issues that have recently arisen in Scotland that I would like to discuss separately and I wonder if this could conveniently be done after the main meeting.

[REDACTED]

The second issue follows the announcement of our intention to introduce new legislation on electronic training collars to permit their use only under the guidance of a veterinary surgeon or an approved trainer. This would apply to remote training collars, anti-bark collars and hidden boundary fence devices using electrostatic pulses, sound or spray mechanisms. We have still to develop detailed proposals but this may raise questions about vets providing certificates to owners stating that they have agreed the use of a particular device for the owner's particular situation after other training methods have been tried or would be unsuitable, the owner has agreed to use a certain design of device in accordance with a code of practice and it is therefore suitable to use one – we are thinking in terms of a written agreement between the owner and the vet or approved trainer to provide a basis for this.

I don't want to unnecessarily extend the meeting but it would be useful if I could take advantage of the opportunity to discuss the committees views on these proposals. If so I could provide a couple of brief papers explaining the situation beforehand.

Do you think this would be possible? It would be very helpful if it could be arranged.

Regards
Andrew

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS
Scottish Government Veterinary Adviser / Spur P / Saughton House / Broomhouse Drive / Edinburgh / EH11 3XD /
Tel: [REDACTED] / andrew.voas@gov.scot

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PAPER FOR RCVS CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

1 MARCH 2017

ELECTRONIC TRAINING COLLARS FOR PET ANIMALS

Current position

- Scottish Ministers announced on 4 October 2016 that strict regulations would be introduced to tightly control the use of various electronic aids capable of causing pain or aversive sensations (i.e. static pulse, sonic or spray).
- There is evidence that these devices can cause suffering and through regulation they will only be permitted when other training methods have proven ineffective and under professional guidance by an approved trainer or a veterinary surgeon.
- The precise format and content of the regulations will be determined through further discussion with stakeholders from the pet industry, animal training and animal welfare sectors. These discussions will include qualifications required by an approved trainer and the method by which use of training collars by dog owners will be adequately supervised to ensure pet welfare.
- Initial discussions have taken place with trainers who use these devices and further discussions with veterinary and animal welfare sectors will be timetabled in the coming months.

Background on consultation

- The Scottish Government consultation 'Potential controls or prohibition of electronic training aids in Scotland' ran from 6 November 2015 until 29 January 2016, and attracted 1032 responses.
- Four options were proposed – **Keep the status quo**; **Develop guidance or a statutory welfare code**; **Develop regulations on use**; and **Ban the use**.
- The responses were independently analysed and a copy of the analysis report can be found at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/animal-welfare/electronic-training-aids/>.
- Results of consultation included: 44% in favour of a ban on certain devices; 5% sought stricter regulations; and 10% favoured a mixture of ban and regulation. 9% favoured guidance or a statutory welfare code and 28% felt that current legislation was sufficient.

Certification issues

- We are currently considering if we can recognise an association of trainers in Scotland who will be able to supervise their clients' use of electronic collars in future. We hope to work with them to develop a code of practice for the use of collars, a trainer's training module and an occupational qualification recognised by an external body, e.g a Scottish Vocational Qualification or the equivalent of the National Occupational Standard for dog trainers recognised by LANTRA.
- Suitably qualified trainers or veterinary surgeons will be expected to have a written agreement with clients stating that they have received appropriate instruction, specifying the individual make and model of collar to be used and the precise circumstances in

which it should be used. This would be a development of the sort of form currently used shown below and include an element to be signed by the approved trainer or a veterinary surgeon.

- Electronic collars are available for remote training, anti-bark training or for use with invisible boundary fence systems. Individual trainers or veterinary surgeons may wish to permit the use of one or more types of device, according to their own personal knowledge and experience and the suitability of the device for individual clients. Veterinary surgeons who may not wish to become involved in remote training of dogs might however consider permitting clients to use boundary control systems for dogs or cats after suitable advice and discussion.

Specific RCVS advice is not being sought at this stage but the committee may wish to be aware of what is being considered and we would be interested in any observations on the possible veterinary certification questions that could arise.

CURRENT FORMS USED BY [REDACTED]

Undertaking by client who purchases collar from trainer

Mini Educator ET 300 ½ mile remote trainer.....

We acknowledge receipt of the remote trainer and confirm that it will only be used on *Dog's Name* as a training aid following the training plan for *Name* as set out in writing and on DVD by *Trainers Name*.

We also confirm that we will at all times use the device responsibly and it will never be used to punish *Name* or cause unnecessary discomfort. For the avoidance of doubt the remote trainer will not be used on any other animal or by any other person.

Undertaking by client who owns e-collar and consults trainer on collar use/training programme

I acknowledge that I have consulted *Trainers Name* regarding the correct use of a remote training collar and confirm that it will only be used on my dog *Dog's Name* by me as a training device following *Name's* Training Plan as set out in writing and on DVD by *Trainers Name*.

I also confirm that I will at all times use the device responsibly and it will never be used to punish *Name* or cause unnecessary discomfort. For the avoidance of doubt the remote trainer will not be used on any other animal or by any other person.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 January 2018 15:31
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic training Collars - Wednesday 25th January 2017
Attachments: ABDT COC DRAFT.docx; ABDT COC for ecollars.docx

[REDACTED]

Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 25 April 2017 09:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic training Collars - Wednesday 25th January 2017

For your info

On 2017-03-10 09:30, [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

[REDACTED]

I have been in contact with [REDACTED] and he is unable to attend a meeting in the morning of 25 April.

I would be able to fit a meeting in later in the day and have moved the meeting to 13:00.

I hope this time is still suitable for you.

Kind regards

Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11
3XD
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 March 2017 10:55
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic training Collars -
Wednesday 25th January 2017

[REDACTED]

Thank you for confirming. I have contacted [REDACTED] and invited him to the meeting also.

I would be grateful if you could send me a copy of the draft code of conduct ahead of the meeting, and any training materials you may have from the [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11
3XD
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 09 March 2017 10:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic training Collars -
Wednesday 25th January 2017

No problem that's a go all confirmed look forward to it

[REDACTED]

On 2017-03-09 10:26, [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

I have discussed with Andrew and suggest that we hold a meeting on Tuesday 25 April 2017 at 10:30 in Saughton House.

I would be grateful if you could confirm the date and time with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |
Edinburgh | EH11 3XD
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 07 March 2017 12:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic
training Collars - Wednesday 25th January 2017

Thanks

I have spoke with them and we can make ourselves available when suits
you after 12th April. Just let me know when suits asap and I'll pass it
on

Many thanks

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
On 2017-03-07 12:20 [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:
[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email below and I can confirm that I am content for
both [REDACTED] to attend the meeting.

In order for us to find a suitable date I would be grateful if you
could liaise with both [REDACTED] to find 3 or 4 dates, after
your holiday, which they would be able travel through to Edinburgh to
attend a meeting.

I will then look at timings which would suitable for us all.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |
Edinburgh | EH11 3XD
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 27 February 2017 17:49
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic
training Collars - Wednesday 25th January 2017

Hi [REDACTED]

That sounds great. We have a code of conduct rough draft for you to peruse and our next meeting.

There are 3 members of the board for the Association of Balanced Dog Trainers which includes [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Would both be able to attend?

I spoke with the [REDACTED] and they are very keen to work with ADBT and we will be discussing this further in the coming couple of weeks.

When would be good to meet up?

I'm away on holiday from 24th March for 2 weeks. Apart from that I can make myself free as can my colleagues.

Regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
On 2017-02-27 15:09 [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:
Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email below. I think it would be useful if we have a further meeting to be updated on the progress of the Association.

In order for the meeting to be beneficial to both the Association and Scottish Government, it would be more productive to keep the number of meeting attendees to a minimum. I would be grateful if you could nominate one other person to attend the meeting with you. I will also be extending an invitation to [REDACTED] and a colleague.

You advised at the last meeting that you are a member of [REDACTED] and I wondered if you had information on their training programmes. Information on the structure of the programme offered (minimum training requirements for trainers, number of hours experience (eg 150 hrs), training logs etc) which a trainer is required to attain before becoming a member of the Association might prove helpful.

It would also be good to have sight of the draft code of conduct ahead of the meeting (hopefully to take place in March).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |
Edinburgh | EH11 3XD
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]mailto:[REDACTED]
Sent: 19 February 2017 12:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic training Collars - Wednesday 25th January 2017

Afternoon [REDACTED] and Andrew. Just wanted to keep you updated to say that the Association is progressing well and are keen to meet with you guys again whenever suits you to move things forward. I have spoken with the president of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] aswell as a number of the world leading e-collar trainers.

All are keen to participate and are members of the Association of Balanced Dog Trainers.

The [REDACTED] are keen to link the Associations together here in Scotland and I'm progressing with that as we speak.

We had a meeting yesterday and are finalising a draft code of conduct and some other aspects that will be of interest to you.

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
On 2017-01-19 06:59 [REDACTED]@gov.scot wrote:

Please below topics that will be discussed at the meeting next week.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Approved Trainers
3. Training
4. Behaviour problems
5. Electronic training collars

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive |
Edinburgh | EH11 3XD
Tel: [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: 18 January 2017 22:25
To: [redacted]
Subject: Re: AGENDA - Scottish Government Meeting - Electronic training Collars - Wednesday 25th January 2017

Hey are you able to resend the agenda in a different format I can't open it

[redacted]

On 2017-01-18 15:24 [redacted]@gov.scot wrote:
Dear all,

Please find attached a copy of the agenda for the meeting to be held in Saughton House on Wednesday 25th January 2017.

I would be grateful if you report to the Main Reception on arrival at Saughton House.

To note this meeting will allow us to gather further information on how electronic collars are being used and the training programmes currently in place.

Kind regards

[redacted]
Animal Welfare Branch | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive
|
Edinburgh | EH11 3XD
Tel: [redacted]

[redacted]*****

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION

DRAFT

DRAFT

ABDT CODE OF CONDUCT

Members of the public and in particular Dog Owning Citizens are the source of our strength and influence as a Professional Organization. From the work and integrity of our members and the services they provide, people will determine our reputation and ability to make an impact upon our profession and the well being of dogs and their owners. The obligation of members to those we represent and serve will best be achieved through a common Code of Conduct to guide our professional business practice. Therefore compliance with this Code of Conduct is a requirement for all members.

Each individual member of the Association of Balanced Dog Trainers shall:

- 1. Conduct his/her business in a professional manner, honestly and with trust and respect.**
- 2. Assist in maintaining the honor and reputation of the Association and their Profession and avoid any form of fraud, deception or impropriety.**
- 3. Serve his/her client or customers competently and proficiently with proper care and attention.**
- 4. Use professional judgment on behalf of each client or customer without regard to personal interests or interests of other clients or the desire of another person(s).**
- 5. Not undertake any service or employment for which he/she is not competent.**
- 6. Determine his/her ability to be of professional assistance to a client. Should the expertise required fall outside the realm of the member's capability he/she shall seek appropriate answers and/ or support, or refer out to a fellow professional with the necessary experience and ability.**

7. Continue to further his/her education and increase his/her knowledge, skills and experience to stay current and be able to increase the well being of themselves, the profession, clients, customers, dogs, the dog ownership community and other affiliated bodies.

8. ABDT members may not seek to deprive any canine professional of his or her ability to conduct his or her business by seeking to restrict or ban accepted and established tools of the trade, or by seeking to restrict or ban accepted and established techniques and practices within the industry through calls for boycotts, restrictions, bans, or other actions designed to interfere with free marketplace participation of a canine professional in his or her business. Accepted and established tools of the trade include, but are not limited to, leashes, harnesses, training collars, slip collars, prong collars, head halters, remote electronic collars, and electronic pet containment systems. Accepted and established techniques and practices include, but are not limited to, those techniques and practices described in published books, videos, and professional seminars. A personal preference shall be allowed in the individual member's choice of methods, equipment and techniques within their own practice.

9. Give his/her client an honest opinion when consulted, and avoid bold, confident and false assurances to obtain employment, sales and/or status.

10. Not give false information to the Association. Doing so shall be considered grounds for lifetime dismissal.

11. Accept that individual member's fees charged to the community shall be a matter between the member and their client.

12. Conduct themselves in a business like and professional manner while maintaining empathy and understanding for the needs of the client, customer and dog.

13. Use professional judgement and where it is considered of benefit to the client and/or dog, engage in consultation with other professionals to seek advice and assistance. All communications between professionals with regard to clients shall be responsible, respectful, and effective while remaining confidential endeavouring to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of the professional/client relationship .

Any member who has been convicted in court of cruelty to dogs or inhumane treatment of animals shall be terminated from the Association of Balanced Dog Trainers and all privileges withdrawn.

DRAFT

ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION

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DRAFT

ABDT CODE OF CONDUCT REGARDING ELECTRONIC TRAINING DEVICES

We believe the best use of an electronic collar is in any situation where it is beneficial to the safety and or wellbeing to the dog and or owner.

The Code specifies the minimum standards required when training a dog to the use of an electronic collar. The wellbeing of the animal must be the first priority in any training program and when using electronic collars on animals.

The Code and its provisions are to be observed by owners of dogs and by other people who may work with a dog being trained to the use of an electronic collar (such as, approved dog trainers and any other approved professional).

Electronic remote training, anti-bark and containment collars are tools used by balanced trainers and owners to manage behaviour or to teach obedience training. The Code sets out the principles that should be used when training a dog to wear an electronic collar including the importance of enabling the animal to predict and control the stimulation.

The Code avoids detailed prescription of training programs as it recognises the wide variability in dog behaviour and response to training and the need to enable the approved trainer overseeing the introduction and use of the collar to determine the appropriate training program after expert review of the animal and situation.

Legal requirements for electronic collar use

The Regulations set out a number of requirements for the use of electronic collars on animals. Unless those conditions are met electronic collars cannot be used on animals in Scotland.

A summary of some of the requirements of the regulations are detailed below:

- Electronic collars can be used on dogs for remote training, anti-barking or containment purposes for containment purposes only; they cannot be used on any other species or on a dog under 6 months of age.**
- Before an electronic collar can be used on a dog an approved trainer must first have assessed the physical and psychological health of the dog and assessed the animal as suitable for the use of an electronic collar.**
- Once approval is given for use of an electronic collar on a dog the animal must be introduced to the use of the collar in accordance with this Code and the collar must be used under the direction of the approved trainer.**

- Use of remote training and anti-bark collars requires an ongoing review process by the approved trainer within 6 months of first beginning use and then every 12 months after that first review.
- Collars must not be left on a dog for more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period.

If you are intending to use an electronic collar on an animal it is important that you are aware of the full conditions of use.

List of trusted e-collar suppliers

E-collar Technologies

Dogtra

Aetertek

Garmin

Pac