

Document 13

TIME FOR A BAN ON ELECTRIC SHOCK COLLARS, SCOTTISH PUBLIC TELLS GOVERNMENT

Overwhelming public support for Scottish ban on these cruel dog devices finds Kennel Club research

The Kennel Club has commissioned an independent survey into the Scottish public's opinion of electric shock collars, which found that:

- 73% of the Scottish public disapprove of the use of electric shock collars on dogs
- 82% agree that positive reinforcement training methods can address behavioural issues in dogs without the need for negative training methods
- 74% of the public would support the government to introduce a ban on electric shock collars

The Kennel Club is urging the Scottish government to take action following a Kennel Club funded survey which found that the majority of the general public in Scotland are against the use of electric shock collars and would support the government in introducing a ban on these devices.

The Kennel Club is against the use of negative training methods or devices and believes that they are both irresponsible and ineffective. There a large number of positive training tools and methods that can produce well trained dogs with absolutely no fear, pain or potential damage to the relationship between dog and handler. Furthermore, some of the most highly trained dogs in the world, including police dogs, armed forces dogs and assistance dogs are trained without the use of electric shock collars.

The Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published two research studies last year which demonstrated negative behavioural and

physiological changes in dogs which were trained with electric shock collars. The research also showed that even when electric shock collars were used on dogs by professional trainers following an industry standard, there were still long term negative welfare effects. Despite this, Scotland has yet to follow in Wales' footsteps in banning electric shock collars, and the Kennel Club hopes that the findings of its new research will let the government know that the public would be behind them on a ban.

Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club Secretary said: "The results are absolutely clear. A large majority of the Scottish public are against the use of electric shock collars and would support the government in banning these cruel devices.

"The Scottish government supports Westminster with their current proposal and response to its own funded research, which is to work on creating guidance with the electric shock collar manufacturers regarding how to best use these tools without compromising the dog's welfare. This does not reflect what the Scottish public wants and the Kennel Club and other major welfare organisations and Parliamentarians believe this would fail in protecting dog welfare, as the Defra research itself has shown.

"It is time for the government to stop delaying what the evidence has highlighted is needed, and what the Scottish public has clearly said they want – a ban on the use of electric shock collars. Now really is the perfect time."

Electric shock collars are already outlawed in a number of countries worldwide, including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, and in most states in Australia.

The survey follows the introduction of Matthew Offord MP's Ten Minute Rule Bill in Westminster last month calling for a ban on the sale and use of electric shock collars, which will have its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Friday February 28th.

More information on the Kennel Club's campaign to ban electric shock collars can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/banshockcollars.

ENDS

[044.14]

24th February 2014

For journalists who would like further press information, images or interview requests click [here](#).

www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Like our Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/Kclovesdogs>

Follow us on Twitter

<http://twitter.com/kclovesdogs>

Notes to editors:

The survey was carried out for the Kennel Club by Censuswide in January 2014 with **XX** respondents.

The Kennel Club

The Kennel Club is the largest organisation in the UK devoted to dog health, welfare and training. Its objective is to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with responsible owners.

It runs the country's largest registration database for both pedigree and crossbreed dogs and the Petlog database, which is the UK's biggest reunification service for microchipped animals. The Kennel Club is accredited by UKAS to certify members of its Assured Breeder Scheme, which is the only scheme in the UK that monitors breeders in order to protect the welfare of puppies and breeding bitches. It also runs the UK's largest dog training programme, the Good Citizen Dog Training Scheme and licenses shows and clubs across a wide range of activities, which help dog owners to bond and enjoy life with their dogs. The Kennel Club runs the world's greatest dog show, Crufts, and the Discover Dogs event at Earls Court, London, which is a fun family day out that educates people about how to buy responsibly and care for their dog.

The Kennel Club invests in welfare campaigns, dog training and education programmes and the Kennel Club Charitable Trust, which supports research into dog diseases and dog welfare charities, including Kennel Club Breed Rescue organisations that re-home dogs throughout the UK. The Kennel Club jointly runs health screening schemes with the British Veterinary Association and through the Charitable Trust, funds the Kennel Club Genetics Centre at the Animal Health Trust, which is at the forefront of pioneering research into dog health. The new Kennel Club

Cancer Centre at the Animal Health Trust will contribute to the AHT's well-established cancer research programme, helping to further improve dog health.



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

Secretary

Document 114

Ms R Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

peo

6th October 2016

Dear Ms Cunningham

We wanted to write to you to express our gratitude for the announcement made yesterday regarding the shortening of the tails of Spaniel and Hunt, Point Retriever puppies where a vet believes they are likely to be used for work; and also on regulating the use of electronic training collars. We have publically welcomed both of these decisions and we hope to work closely with your team in the development of the regulations moving forward.

We particularly commend the decision for working puppies to be able to have their tails shortened by a vet – and we appreciate that it may not have been an easy one to make given the opinion of some of the other welfare charities with whom we are normally closely aligned. However we do believe it is in the welfare interests of these puppies to be able to have their tails shortened early on in life in order to prevent a more serious injury later on, and were pleased to have found the studies commissioned by the Scottish Government supported this view.

The Kennel Club and Scottish Kennel Club had ideally wanted to see a total ban on the sale and use of electronic training collars, given the mounting evidence that they are used inconsistently even when under supervision. We firmly believe that positive, reward-based training methods are far more effective in correcting unwanted behaviour, which is often the reason cited for their use. Some of the country's best trained dogs, such as police dogs trained by Police Scotland, are trained without the use of these devices, which goes to show how unnecessary they are.

However tighter regulations should, at the very least, send a clear message that these are not devices that should be widely used and the new laws will undoubtedly help to reduce their use and make them harder to get hold of.



FS 515439

The Kennel Club Limited Incorporated in England and Wales
Registered No: 8217778
Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB
Telephone 020 7518 1056 Facsimile 020 7518 1058 www.thekennelclub.org.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

We would at some point welcome clarification from the Scottish Government to specify exactly who will be considered an 'authorised' person to ensure that any new laws being brought in are as effective and enforceable as possible.

We hope to discuss the detail of the proposals with your team in the near future.

Best wishes

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Kennel Club Secretary

[REDACTED]

Document 17



Roseanna Cunningham
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Eskmills Park, Station Road
Musselburgh EH21 7PQ
Tel: 0131 665 3920 Fax: 0131 653 6937
email: info@scottishkennelclub.org
web: www.scottishkennelclub.org

23 January 2017

Dear Minister

Re: New Regulations on Electronic Shock Collars and Tail Docking

We were delighted with the announcement of the Scottish Government on 4th October 2016 that tough new regulations on the use of electronic training collars for animals will be introduced in Scotland and also that legislation will be changed to permit the shortening of the tails of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies where a vet believes they are likely to be for use as a working dog and risk serious tail injury in later life.

We hope that you saw the positive commentary we put out to the media in response to your announcement as the Scottish Kennel Club and the Kennel Club have long campaigned for such legislative change and believe this will go a long way to further the welfare of dogs in Scotland.

We wanted to write to you to get a clearer idea on timeframes for when regulations will be introduced, and to see if we may be able to be of assistance to your teams working on them. We are getting an increasing number of inquiries from those who organise dog shows, and from our Kennel Club Accredited Instructors as both parties agree with the stance of the Scottish Government and want to be able to clarify this with their customers. Through these channels we may be able to help the Scottish Government communicate better with those who may be affected by the legal changes and/or those who actively campaigned for change themselves.

We would be very pleased to meet with you (or a member of your team if more appropriate) to discuss the new regulations in more detail. Please let us know if this would be something we could arrange by contacting [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Scottish Kennel Club Secretary

Kennel Club Secretary



DogsTrust

RECEIVED

31 JAN 2017

Document 18

Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Thursday 26th January 2017

Dear Ms Cunningham,

Dogs Trust is holding a drop in session for MSPs in the Scottish Parliament on 15th March from 12pm-2pm to discuss aversive training devices.

Joining us will be Dr [REDACTED], Director of Canine Behaviour & Research at Dogs Trust. Dr [REDACTED] is a European and RCVS Recognised Specialist in Veterinary Behavioural Medicine, a European Specialist in Animal Welfare, Ethics and Law, and a Certified Clinical Animal Behaviourist who has been specialising in veterinary behaviour for over 20 years.

We would be grateful if we could organise a separate meeting with you on this day to discuss the proposed regulations on electronic training devices and how the regulations can best be worded to ensure the use of these devices is limited to approved trainers or vets. In particular, we would like to discuss how an approved trainer can be defined.

If this would be possible, I would be grateful if your office could please contact me at [REDACTED]. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Head of Public Affairs

RECEIVED 01 FEB 2017
PGW

Dogs Trust
Clarissa Baldwin House
17 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7RQ

T 020 7837 0006
F 020 7833 2701
www.dogstrust.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & SC037843

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®

Document 19

From: [redact]@dogs.trust
Sent: 01 March 2017 08:52
To: [redact]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Meeting to discuss electronic training collars

Morning [redacted],

Apologies for the inconvenience, but would it be possible to move this meeting forward half an hour to 3pm please?

Many thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redact]@dogs.trust
Sent: 23 February 2017 14:27
To: [redact]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Meeting to discuss electronic training collars

Apologies I did wonder how clear it was in m email. You are correct though, it will be [redacted] and [redacted] attending the meeting.

Many thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redact]@dogs.trust
Sent: 23 February 2017 11:44
To: [redact]@gov.scot
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Meeting to discuss electronic training collars

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your email, hope you are well

I have checked the diary and 3.30pm suits both [redacted] and [redacted]. They look forward to seeing you at Saughton House

Many thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redact]@dogs.trust
Sent: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Meeting to discuss electronic training collars

Hi [redacted]

We have received a letter from the Cabinet Secretary's Private Secretary to say that she is unable to meet with us on 15 March to discuss electronic training collars, but to contact you if it would be useful to meet with the Animal Welfare Branch.

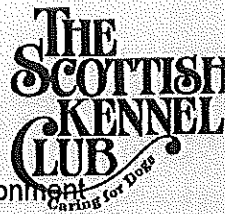
We'll be in the Scottish Parliament that day holding a drop-in event for MSPs. [redacted], our Director of Canine Behaviour and Research, will be joining us and so it would be a good opportunity for her to discuss the details of the proposed Regulations.

Would you be available for a meeting at 3pm on 15 March at all? Ideally in the Scottish Parliament (the public cafeteria?) or we could go to Saughton House if that wasn't an option.

Many thanks,

Dogs Trust - A Dog Is For Life
[redacted]
Head of Public Affairs
[redacted]

Document 20



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Eskmills Park, Station Road
Musselburgh EH21 7PQ
Tel: 0131 665 3920 Fax: 0131 653 6937
email: info@scottishkennelclub.org
web: www.scottishkennelclub.org

14 March 2017

Dear Minister

Re: New Regulations on Electronic Shock Collars and Tail Docking

We received a reply from [REDACTED] to our letter on regulations on Electronic Shock Collars and Tail Docking dated 23rd January on 8th March – we are grateful for this but it doesn't go into as much detail as we had hoped regarding the regulations surrounding electronic shock collars.

We had hoped to glean more of an idea of timescales, particularly in light of recent developments in Scotland regarding their use, which you may be aware of. Only a few weeks ago we found out that for the first time in the UK, (as far as we are aware), a course on training with e-collars was publically advertised and took place in Perth. It was organised by a company called 'ACES Animal Care and Exercise Services'. We wrote to the MSPs in the area where the business operates and where the course took place. We were extremely saddened by the manner in which the courses were advertised, as in the case of electric shock collars, it leads even the most loving and responsible dog owners to think that perhaps training a dog in this way is acceptable. The advert is below

"E-COLLAR WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY 15th, 22nd & 23rd FEBRUARY WITH RODDY KIRK 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.

Thanks for reading & would appreciate if you would share....

The advert makes no mention of the fact that regulations in Scotland will soon be brought in to ban the use of e-collars (unless under veterinary advice) and on the contrary states that ALL are welcome. When regulations are in place, courses such as these will, we hope, be banned, however in the meantime we would appreciate further information that we can pass on to our concerned network of Accredited Instructors.

Yours sincerely



Scottish Kennel Club Secretary



Kennel Club Secretary

Document 21

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 August 2017 10:23
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: electronic training aids - invite to C/SKC proposed event

That's great - thank you [redacted],

I will send formal invites over within the next couple of weeks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 08 August ~017 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 you know that we are organising a round table event in the Scottish Parliament, on Weds 8th November from pm-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

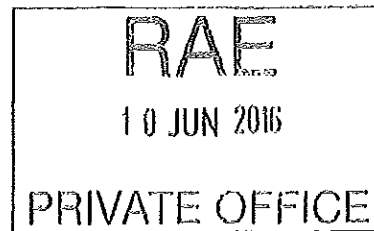


DogsTrust

DIARY

Document 26

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP



2nd June 2016

Dear Mr Ewing,

On behalf of Dogs Trust, I wish to congratulate you on your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy and Connectivity, with responsibility for animal welfare.

As you may be aware, Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity. We care for approximately 17,000 dogs each year through our nationwide network of 20 rehoming centres, including in West Calder and Glasgow.

Dogs Trust is involved in a number of national campaigns regarding dog welfare, such as the illegal importation of puppies, the greyhound industry, and the online advertising of pets. We also invest substantial resources in education and responsible ownership initiatives, including free microchipping and neutering vouchers.

We have long led the campaign, as chair of the Microchipping Alliance, for the introduction of compulsory microchipping, and greatly welcomed the Scottish Government's announcement on this important aspect of dog welfare and responsible ownership. We made a commitment to ensure that no dog was left behind when the legislation came into force in April 2016. To this end, in we have provided microchips for well over 1 million dogs, through Local Authorities, Housing Associations, our dedicated Dogs Trust roaming chipping team in Scotland, our Microchipping Through Vets scheme, and rehoming centre events throughout the UK.

Although microchipping undoubtedly makes a vital contribution towards ensuring responsible ownership, it is by no means a panacea for the various issues surrounding dog welfare and control that we are currently grappling with in this country. The Government has taken many positive steps towards enhancing dog welfare over the past five years, but there remains a lot more to do. In particular I am keen to discuss the recent consultations on tail docking and electronic training aids with you, as well as the upcoming review on the breeding and sale of dogs. If this would be possible, I would be grateful if your office could please contact me at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Head of Public Affairs

Dogs Trust
17 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7RQ
T 020 7837 0006
F 020 7833 2701
www.dogstrust.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Chairman: Mr PG Daubeny Honorary Treasurer: Mr S Langton FCA Chief Executive: Mrs CM Baldwin OBE
Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & SC037843

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®



Document 27

Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Wednesday 15th March 2017

Dear Ms Cunningham,

Following our attendance at a recent event hosted by Dogs Trust in the Scottish Parliament, we would like to raise our concerns with the proposed new regulations on the use of electronic training collars for animals.

To help prevent animal suffering, the Scottish Government recently announced that the use of electric pulse, sonic and spray collars will be prohibited, unless under the guidance of an approved trainer or vet. Whilst we recognise that Dogs Trust called for a ban on the sale and use of these devices, in the absence of this, any conditions for their use must be robust in order to protect the welfare of dogs. We are concerned that recent research commissioned by Defra concluded that the routine use of electronic training collars even in accordance with 'best practice' presents a risk to the well-being of pet dogs. It is critical that if electronic training collars are to be regulated, use must only be permitted by individuals with appropriate training in animal behaviour.

During the event, Dogs Trust explained that there is currently no regulation of animal trainers in Scotland, so anybody is able to call themselves an animal trainer. Furthermore, veterinary training includes relatively little detailed information about animal behaviour, with specialisation in this area requiring a further four years of post-graduate study. We are therefore concerned about permitting the use of electronic training collars by approved trainers and vets, without further requirements for training in animal behaviour.

Dogs Trust recommends that appropriate training in animal behaviour, summarised from the Animal Behaviour Training Council's Standard for an Animal Trainer, must include the following:

1. Understand normal patterns of behaviour, how individuals may vary in their response to training and the welfare needs for dogs

Dogs Trust
Clarissa Baldwin House
17 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7RQ

T 020 7837 0006
F 020 7833 2701
www.dogstrust.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & 50937843

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®



2. Understand the principles of learning, including the importance of timing and consistency, risks for unintentional learning and the factors which influence a dog's ability to learn new tasks
3. Understand the factors which may affect the progress and success of training, the learning principles and welfare implications of different training approaches, and the importance of reviewing and revising training protocols

We fully support Dogs Trust in their call for approved trainers and vets to have appropriate training in animal behaviour as set out above, before being permitted to use electronic training collars. We strongly urge you to require this within the new regulations.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dogs Trust
Clarissa Baldwin House
17 Wakley Street
London EC1V 7RQ

T 020 7837 0006
F 020 7833 2701
www.dogstrust.org.uk

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen
Registered Charity Numbers: 227523 & 5002843

A dog is for life, not just for Christmas®

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 October 2017 10:08
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Agenda, Briefing and Delegate list for Kennel Club/Scottish Kennel Club meeting on electronic training aids
Attachments: Delegate list for ESC meeting.xlsx; ESC event briefing note for delegates.docx; ESC event agenda.docx

Dear all

We are very much looking forward to meeting with you next Wednesday 8th November at the Kennel Club/Scottish Kennel Club hosted discussion on the sale and use of electronic training aids.

Please find attached

- 1) An agenda
- 2) A briefing note
- 3) A delegate list

As you know, the meeting will start promptly at 6pm and will close at 8pm. It is taking place in the Livingstone Room, Committee Room 6 of the Scottish Parliament.

My contact number should you need it is [REDACTED]

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Public Affairs Manager
The Kennel Club

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

REASON FOR INVITING

Stakeholder
Stakeholder
Stakeholder
Vet
MSP
Behaviourist
Academic
Stakeholder
Stakeholder
Stakeholder
Stakeholder
Behaviourist
2016 KCAI trainer of the year
Behaviourist
Stakeholder
Civil Servant
Civil Servant
MSP
MSP
Broadcaster
Stakeholder
MSP
MSP
KCAI Regional Mentor
MSP
MSP
Stakeholder
Behaviourist
MSP
Behaviourist
Behaviourist
Behaviourist
MSP



THE KENNEL CLUB

Making a difference for dogs

Themes of Discussion

Can the use of electronic training devices be justified? What is the evidence on both sides of the debate?

Different attitudes to different devices? Are static pulse collars and anti-bark collars 'worse' than boundary fences? Should use of all aversive devices including citronella and sonic collars also be regulated or banned?

Other than animal welfare, what other considerations should be given as to whether regulations or a complete ban on electronic training aids should be brought forward? I.e. impacts on businesses, enforcement etc.

What is the strength of evidence regarding the impact of various electronic training devices on animal welfare?

Consultation responses are summarised below, and are mixed. If regulations are brought forward to offer a 'half way' measure i.e. a licensing regime run under the auspices of vets and behaviourists, how would this work? Would this be practical? Would qualifications need to be established for behaviourists?

Status Quo, Regulations or Ban? Should electronic training devices be regulated or banned completely – is there any place for them in a modern day society?

Briefing

This briefing is a summary of the responses published by the Scottish Government following the last consultation carried out on banning the use of electronic training aids. This consultation ran from November 2015 – January 2016 and followed an earlier consultation in 2007.

Arguments in favour of continued use of electronic training aids

General use

It is claimed that the use of electronic training aids can bring very real benefits to animals that might otherwise have led very restricted lives, or for which euthanasia would have been a likely option. This may include animals for which other training methods had not worked. Arguments can be summarised as follows:

- They may be particularly effective for specific types of dogs, including some working dog breeds, which have a very strong instinct to chase other animals and which may not respond to other training cues.
- Most of those who use electronic training aids use them properly. Anything can be open to misuse, but there is no particular association with electronic training aids – if someone is determined to abuse an animal they will find a way to be cruel or neglectful.

- The existing legislation is sufficient to protect animals. It is clear that causing unnecessary suffering to an animal - whether with an electronic training aid or by any other means - is against the law. Enforcing the existing law would be more effective in protecting animals than adding further legislation or regulations. Any statutory controls should be focused on the quality and specification of the devices available.

Anti-bark collars

- If a dog barks persistently, and to a level which may result in complaints from neighbours, an anti-bark collar could be the only solution which allows the dog to remain in the home.

Arguments against the continued use of electronic training aids

General use

- Using electronic training aids is harmful and/or cruel. In addition to immediate pain or distress, they may result in anxiety-related behaviours, lead to dogs shutting down psychologically, lead to dogs re-directing any aggression at other dogs or people and can cause physical injuries.
- Training methods which are punishment-based and dependent on inflicting pain or creating fear suppress behaviour without addressing its underlying cause or the motivation behind it.
- Electronic training aids themselves are very difficult to use correctly and create a risk that the animal associates coincidental events with the punishment, especially if that punishment is poorly timed, or for boundary fence systems, if the animal is not able to see the boundary markings. There are much more effective and humane positive reinforcement training methods available.
- The existing animal welfare legislation is not sufficient to protect animals, not least because it does not prevent the use of static pulse collars. The "unnecessary" suffering referenced in the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is a subjective concept which is potentially difficult to prove.
- Any regulations would be very difficult, if not impossible, to enforce and only a ban would offer sufficient protection to animals.

Anti-bark collars

- They do not address the reason why the dog is barking. For example, a dog which barks when left alone may be suffering from separation anxiety, which needs to be addressed by helping the dog overcome that anxiety. An anti-bark collar is more likely to make things worse by increasing the anxiety being experienced.

Boundary fence systems

- An animal could be endangered if it is unable to leave an area in an emergency, such as in the event of a fire or if another dog, and particularly an aggressive dog, enters the property and the contained dog is unable to escape it.
- Boundary fences can cause particular problems if the animal does pass through but is then unable to return to a safe area.
- They may be acceptable as long as the animal has a clear option to move away.

Spray collars

- Spraying anything on or near a dog's face can cause distress and a fear response.
- Collars which spray citronella may result in citronella getting into the eyes, nose and mouth of the animal wearing the collar and possibly of animals nearby. This could be harmful to any dog involved, particularly given the sensitivity of its senses.
- The animal will be left to experience the smell and hence be exposed to any harm being done long after the behaviour the spray collar was supposed to prevent has passed. This will not only mean any harm is prolonged but also that the dog will not associate the spray with the unwanted behaviour.
- Spray collars have the potential for being triggered by adjacent animals, again meaning the dog can make no connection between unwanted behaviour and being sprayed.
- Compressed air is more effective and is not harmful if used properly.

Sonic collars

- Some respondents suggested that sonic devices could harm an animal's hearing.
- Not only the animal wearing the collar could be harmed, other nearby animals could also be affected.
- Collars that emit sound act more as a distraction technique and could be permitted with guidance.

Vibration collars

- Vibration collars may have a role to play in training deaf or blind dogs.
- Collars that vibrate can act more as a distraction technique and could be permitted with guidance.

Different regulations for different electronic devices?

A small majority (51% of all respondents in both cases) favoured remote training and anti-bark static pulse collars being banned.

A consistent 41% of respondents favoured a ban of spray and sonic remote training and anti-bark collars. The majority of animal care and animal welfare respondents favoured a ban. The majority of animal behaviourists favoured a ban of spray and sonic remote training collars and spray anti-bark collars.

The proportion of respondents wishing to see vibration collars banned was lower than for other types of device at 30% for remote training collars and 33% for anti-bark collars. Animal care respondents were the only category of respondent in which a majority wished to ban vibration collars. There were also around 100 respondents who wished to see static pulse, sonic and spray remote training collars banned but did not wish to see vibration remote training collars banned. Overall, 40% of respondents called for a ban of boundary fence systems.

With specific reference to vibration collars, there may be occasions when they could be permitted for use. Suggestions included all vibration collars being acceptable if regulated, through to vibration collars only being acceptable under certain circumstances, such as if all other approaches have failed and euthanasia is the only alternative, or for deaf dogs.

An animal welfare respondent (who had called for a complete ban) noted that, when used correctly, remote training vibrating collars can have a very specific use in the training of deaf dogs. They suggested that consideration should be given to a very tightly regulated exemption for the use of remote training vibrating collars to train deaf dogs only.

There were concerns about the use of alternatives to static pulse collars. For example, a veterinary profession respondent commented that there is a lack of research and evidence concerning the welfare implications of collars using noise, vibration, ultrasonic sound or the spray of water or citronella. They had concerns that such approaches may be stressful for a dog and called for their use to be covered by a code of practice until there is scientific research to demonstrate that their use does not pose a welfare risk. They also suggested that further evidence be collected on the use and effectiveness of boundary fence systems and suggested that their use should be covered by a code of practice in the meantime.

Impact of regulation on businesses and local authorities

3 in 10 thought their business would be affected by a ban or stricter regulations on remote training static pulse collars. However, the most frequently identified possible effect was dealing with fewer animals suffering from the negative effects of having been trained with an electronic training aid. Many of these respondents stressed that they would be delighted to see any reduction in business which results from banning or regulating electronic training aids.

Other effects identified included loss of sales.

Other comments included that any code or guidance would be difficult or impossible to enforce and would not remove all risks of accidental or deliberate misuse of an electronic training device. As with those who favoured a code or guidance, there were also calls for users to undergo training in the correct use of any electronic training aid.

User experience of electronic training devices

Of the 1,007 respondents answering this question, 349 or 35% reported having evidence of positive outcomes following the use of electronic training aids in Scotland. The majority of these respondents (233 out of 349) were pet owners. However, the majority of pet owners (64%) said they did not have any evidence.

The many themes in common included that the use of electronic training aids, including both collars and freedom fences, had brought very real benefits to dogs which might otherwise have led very restricted lives or for which euthanasia would have been a likely option. A number of those making these reports noted that other training methods had not worked with the dogs concerned but that the use of electronic training aids had helped keep the dog, other animals and people safe. A pet supplies respondent suggested that the use of the current generation of electronic collars has helped address antisocial behaviour in dogs which, if left unchecked could have risked the animals' well-being, left the owners with a potential liability and caused nuisance and potential danger to other animals and people. They also noted that whilst reward based training systems are effective for some dogs they are not effective for all dogs.

Those directly referencing their own use of electronic collars sometimes referred to being able to take their dogs to public places without the previous concerns that they could be injured on roads or could chase other animals, including other dogs, cats, sheep or deer.

Comments made by animal trainers or behaviourists included examples of working successfully with dogs for which other approaches had failed and for which an electronic training aid probably represented their last hope. A small number of these respondents did suggest that electronic training aids should only be used when other approaches had been tried but failed and/or that a qualified trainer or behaviourist should be involved.

Animal trainers, animal behaviourist and animal welfare organisations were amongst those making these reports. In terms of the impact on the dogs concerned, there were reports of:

- Anxiety-related behaviour or panic responses to seeing a collar or hearing the noise associated with their use. It was suggested that many users will increase the level of stimulation if they do not achieve immediate results and that this often results in the animal attempting to escape or avoid the stimulus. It was also suggested that animals may fail to show a pain response despite increased levels of electronic stimulation or may become habituated to the pain and endure it. It was noted that the pain and stress caused in such situations has a significant effect on an animal's physiology, increasing cortisol levels and heart rate.
- Dogs shutting down psychologically, including global suppression of behaviour or learned helplessness. It was suggested that this is frequently mistaken for an animal being trained, as the animal is subdued and tends not to act or react. In extreme cases, it was suggested that animals may refuse to perform any behaviour - learned helplessness - and will isolate themselves to avoid incurring electronic stimulation.
- Re-directed aggression towards other dogs, their owner or members of the public. It was suggested that animals may suppress aggression which may resurface at any time, without warning and generally in a more severe form. More specifically, it was reported that using electronic stimulation to reduce behaviours such as barking, lunging and growling may simply suppress the behaviour which could warn of more serious imminent behaviour such as biting. It was further suggested that people and other animals will have no warning before the animal subjected to punishment feels forced to bite.
- Physical injuries to the animal and to the neck in particular.

Scientific evidence

It has been argued by those in favour of the continued use of electronic shock collars that where animal welfare issues are concerned the scientific research process inevitably incorporates a considerable degree of subjective assessment. This point supported their view that the research evidence should inform the development of policy in this area but should not be the primary determinant of any changes to policy or legislation. The ECMA also suggested that there is considerable evidence substantiating the demand to retain these options for dog owners in Scotland and that there is much highly subjective and ill-informed opinion and hearsay which does not recognise the technical capabilities and safety of the latest generation of quality modern-day electronic collar products. They concluded that a legislative ban would create a problem for all those involved and would be counterintuitive to the well-being of dogs. However they have published materials outlining when it is appropriate to use electronic training aids and how to use them in a way that is safe, supervised and effective.

Points highlighted by the research team from the University of Lincoln, the lead researchers on two Defra-funded research projects looking at electronic training aids, and the authors of the *Companion Animal Welfare Council's Report* referenced in the consultation paper have made the following points:

- There are important scientific and technical distinctions to be made between remote training collars, anti-barking collars and electric boundary systems and each needs to be considered separately.
- Remote training collars: Further work undertaken since the Defra-funded studies were completed has been published in a PLOS ONE paper. This work suggested stronger evidence of suffering during training than was reported during the Defra-

funded study. It also produced evidence of poor timing in the use of devices, even by professional trainers. The team is of the view that, given their findings the collars appeared to produce no added benefit but posed a greater risk. Therefore they see a total ban or at the very least tight regulation of remote, owner operated or hand held electronic training collars as being justified.

- Anti-barking collars: There is very limited research available on the welfare impact of anti-bark collars and further research is required. Vibration collars may be considered to pose the lowest risk and may have value, especially with deaf dogs. By contrast there are grounds for concern about the aversiveness of other anti-bark collars, and the team consider that closer regulation or a total ban is warranted. If they are not to be banned, the inclusion of technical and safety features (as currently supported by the ECMA) for remote training collars is considered essential.
- Electric boundary systems: from an animal welfare perspective, there are solid grounds to differentiate remote collar training systems that depend on a human operator and boundary systems. Given the known risk of cats straying onto roads and the limitations of alternative approaches to preventing that happening, the team believe that the evidence does not support a complete ban. However, they would support regulation to ensure best practice guidelines are followed.

Scope of current legislation to protect against electronic training devices

A small majority of respondents (53% of those responding) did not believe that the provisions in current legislation are sufficient to protect animals who wear electronic training aids. The majority of animal behaviourists (64%), animal care respondents (83%), animal trainers (52%), animal welfare respondents (83%), members of the public (62%) and veterinary profession respondents (68%) were of this view. Pet supplies respondents (67%) and owner of working dogs respondents (67%) believed the current provisions to be sufficient.

Some respondents were of the view that most of those who use electronic training aids use them properly and/or that pet owners would not invest in potentially expensive training aids if they did not genuinely believe them to be in the best interest of their pet(s).

The most frequently made point by those who did not believe existing provisions are sufficient was that they do not prevent the use of electronic training aids and, by extension, do not prevent the suffering to animals which these respondents consider electronic training aids to inflict.

The animal welfare respondent highlighting this issue went on to suggest that most users are unlikely to intend to cause suffering to their pet but would have been misled by how the aids are marketed. They also suggested that suffering may not be obvious to any enforcement officer involved since even within a single breed, dogs have been shown to have a variable capacity for coping with aversive stimuli. Even if it is possible to assess the physical suffering that may have been caused, it is not possible to assess the psychological trauma which an animal may have suffered and which may be equally profound. Prosecuting under section 19 of the Act would present some very particular challenges, including proving beyond reasonable doubt that the user had intended to cause unnecessary suffering.

Respondents who commented on their preference for stricter regulations suggested that users of electronic training aids should be required to undergo some form of training in their correct use and/or that devices should only be available through or for the use of qualified animal trainers or behaviourists.

Other comments included that electronic training aids should only be available for use as a last resort or that there should be regulations on the equipment itself. One suggestion was

that regulation should focus on the levels of discomfort it is possible to administer and that the Scottish Government should work with manufacturers to ensure that devices are effective but do not cause pain to an animal.

A pet supplies respondent suggested that secondary legislation would offer a practical and cost-effective approach to establishing standards covering the quality of products and their use without causing the negative consequences which would result from a ban. As a manufacturers association they also noted their commitment to working with government and other key stakeholders to ensure that high-quality, easy to use and safe products are available.

A number of respondents explained why they favoured a ban as opposed to stricter regulations, guidance or a statutory welfare code. The need for clarity and a simple, straightforward message was highlighted. There were concerns that any regulations would be very difficult if not impossible to enforce and that any guidance could simply be ignored. These respondents tended to be of the view that only a complete ban would offer sufficient protection to animals.

How could regulations permitting restricted use work?

- **In person training** - pet owners would only be able to use a device having been trained by and/or under the supervision of a qualified, certified or licensed animal trainer or behaviourist. Around 1 in 7 suggested this condition.
- **On-line tuition** - a veterinary profession respondent suggested that devices could require an activation code which is only provided when the tuition has been completed and an online assessment passed. An animal trainer respondent suggested that online tuition might be appropriate for users of boundary fences.
- **When accessed through a veterinary practitioner** - around 1 in 8 suggested vets could be involved in the distribution of training aids – these respondents included pet owners, animal behaviourists and animal trainers.
- **Only be available for use by qualified/certified/licensed trainers and behaviourists** - around 1 in 8 made this suggestion, including animal welfare respondents, animal behaviourists, animal trainers and pet owners. The suggestion was occasionally linked specifically to the use of static pulse devices.
- **Only be available for use on animals of a specific type or performing a specific function** - such as deaf dogs, breeds of dog prone to excessive barking, gun dogs, farmers' dogs or dogs that work at a distance and/or should only be allowed under specific circumstances – such as if all other training methods have failed and/or if euthanasia was the only other option. Around 1 in 8 suggested one or more of these conditions and, as before, the suggestion was occasionally linked specifically to the use of static pulse devices. Animal welfare respondents, animal trainers, pet owners, veterinary profession and owner of working dogs respondents were amongst those suggesting these types of conditions could be considered.
- **That there be a lower and upper age limit for animals on which devices can be used and a lower age limit for the user, as well as a background check**
- **That there be compulsory health checks** - for any animal for which the use of an electronic training aid is being considered.

There were also suggestions around the devices themselves or other conditions which could be placed on their access or use. These included:

- **Restrictions on the types, models and quality of devices that can be sold** - Specific suggestions included that: there should be limits on the level of static pulse that a device can discharge or, more specifically, on the current and voltage output over a range of resistances; that any chemicals involved should be approved for use

on animals; that the Scottish Government should draw up a list of approved devices; and that approved devices should carry a registered mark to that effect.

- **That there should be restrictions on the outlets through which devices can be purchased and in particular that it should not be possible to buy them online** - this was sometimes associated with both the potential for poor quality, sub-standard devices to be easier to access online and/or with being able to obtain devices without any advice, information or training.
- **That use of a device be registered** - registration of device and/or a serial numbers or traceable identification codes connected to a licensing system for devices and/or those using them.

In terms of which bodies would be best placed to authorise the use of electronic training aids, a number of respondents identified more than one type of body. The most frequently identified bodies were:

- **Professional bodies for animal trainers or behaviourists and/or behaviourists or trainers who had been licensed or accredited by them** - around 3 in 10 of those commenting on conditions and/or bodies suggested these types of bodies or individuals. A range of professional bodies were suggested including the Animal Behaviour and Training Council, the Association of Pet Behaviour Counsellors, the Institute for Modern Dog Training, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, Pet Dog Trainers of Europe, the Centre of Applied Pet Ethology and the Pet Professional Guild British Isles.
- **Animal welfare organisations** - such as the Scottish SPCA, Blue Cross or the Dogs Trust. Around 1 in 5 suggested groups of this type. With specific reference to the Scottish SPCA it was noted that they already have a network of inspectors covering the country. It was also suggested that animal welfare organisations would have a clear focus on the best interests of the animal involved.
- **Veterinary practices or veterinary associations or professional bodies such as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons** - around 1 in 5 suggested organisations or bodies of this type. Those who gave a reason for suggesting vets sometimes noted that they have a presence across the country, would already possess the necessary knowledge and skills that may be required and may know the animals and owners involved.

Issues raised which clearly focused on the possible effect of regulations were that:

- The authorisation process could be time consuming.
- If authorisation was restricted to qualified or certified trainers or behaviourists it would most likely lead to increased business for this group, especially if devices could not be purchased online or at a pet store and without proper training.
- Any restrictions could make electronic training aids seem like an inherently dangerous tool and fewer people may choose to use them – this could then have a knock-on effect on those supplying devices or who train others to use them.
- It can already be difficult to find trainers able to offer training on using electronic training aids, especially in more remote areas. Restrictions would be likely to make this even more difficult and by extension could impact on the number of devices sold.



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

The Future of Regulations on Electronic Training Aids
Roundtable meeting organised by the Kennel Club and Scottish Kennel Club

Where and When

The Livingstone Room, Committee Room 6, the Scottish Parliament
Wednesday 8th November, 6pm- 8pm.

Guest Speakers and Delegates

Maurice Golden MSP – Sponsor
Andrew White – Chair
Jonathan Cooper – guest speaker
Carolyn Menteith – guest speaker
Marc Abraham – guest speaker

Full biographies are below.

Delegates comprise vets, dog trainers and behaviourists, welfare and rehoming charities, Members of the Scottish Parliament and civil servants.

A full delegate list is attached.

Agenda

6pm – Welcome from Maurice Golden MSP, Sponsor
6.05pm – Introductions from Andrew White, Chair
6.10pm – Jonathan Cooper
6.15pm – Carolyn Menteith
6.20pm – Marc Abraham
6.25pm – Andrew White to Chair open discussion from delegates – see briefing for further information on discussion themes
7.40pm – Andrew White to summarise views from delegates
7.45 – Closing remarks from guest speakers
8pm – Close

Background

The Scottish Government has undertaken extensive consultation over the past few years as to whether to ban electronic training aids. The Kennel Club and Scottish 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 last consultation on potential controls or prohibition of electronic training aids in Scotland closed in January 2016 – almost two years ago. Since then the Kennel club and Scottish Kennel Club have written regularly to the Minister regarding the time scale for regulation and it was announced in February this year that regulations would be brought forward this Parliamentary term, which means waiting until potentially 2021. Even then, a complete ban may not be in force because the Minister has stated to us via written correspondence: "As you aware the Scottish Government is in discussion with a number of stakeholders to gather further information on the current and future use of these devices; the possible involvement of veterinary surgeons in providing advice to their clients on electronic training collars; and the requirements needed to become an approved trainer".

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.

Guest Speaker Biographies

Maurice Golden MSP



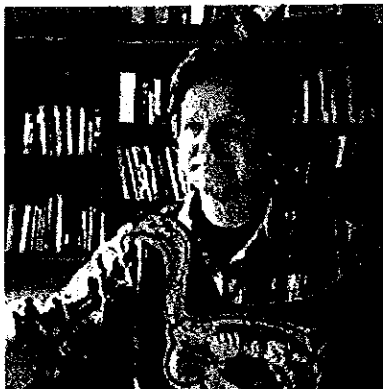
Maurice Golden is a Conservative MSP for West Scotland. He is Chief Whip, Spokesperson for the Low Carbon Economy, and Deputy Convenor of the Environment, Climate change and Land Reform Committee. He is a key supporter of the Kennel Club's campaign to ban electric shock collars.

Andrew White



Broadcaster, Andrew White, is one of Britain's most inspiring & prolific writers, film-makers and broadcasters. Andrew presents Walks Around Britain, is a dog lover and a proud owner of Border Collies.

Dr Jonathan Cooper



Professor in Animal Welfare and Behaviour at the University of Lincoln, Dr Jonathan Cooper was the lead author of DEFRA funded projects on use, efficacy and welfare consequences of training pet dogs with electronic collars.

Carolyn Menteith



Carolyn is a Kennel Club accredited dog trainer and behaviourist. Carolyn's articles on training, behaviour and dog care can be seen every month in Your Dog magazine and she is author of a variety of canine subject books. Carolyn wrote and developed the Puppy Plan together with the Kennel Club and Dogs Trust aimed at preventing behaviour problems in later life and won the inaugural Accredited Instructor of the Year at Crufts 2015.

Marc Abraham



Marc is a practicing veterinary surgeon and author who began a TV career as resident vet on the Paul O'Grady Show. As well as employing his veterinary skills both here and abroad, current Daily Mirror/RSPCA 'Vet of the Year' Marc also campaigns for numerous animal welfare issues including microchipping, rescue pet adoption, responsible breeding, and against puppy farming. In 2009 he set up PupAid, a national puppy farming campaign.

Document 29



06 January 2016

Richard Lochhead – Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and Environment

Dear Mr Lochhead

Esknills Park, Station Road
Musselburgh EH21 7PQ
Tel: 0131 665 3920 Fax: 0131 653 6937
email: info@scottishkennelclub.org
web: www.scottishkennelclub.org

The Kennel Club/Scottish Kennel Club Manifesto Launch, The Scottish Parliament
Thursday 25th February 2016

We would like to invite you to speak at the launch of the Kennel Club/Scottish Kennel Club manifesto taking place from 12pm-1pm on Thursday 25th February 2016 in the Q103 room in Queensberry House, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. We would be very grateful if you could speak for 10 minutes at a time convenient.

As a nation of dog lovers, approximately a quarter of households include a dog - and issues surrounding dog welfare capture dog owners' attention as a great many consider their dogs to be a part of their family.

The results of a recent YouGov poll on the importance of animal welfare to the electorate showed that when voters were asked to name issues determining how they will cast their vote, 14 per cent named animal welfare – more than HS2 or equal marriage. However the mass of voters are in the 29 per cent who said none of the parties are committed to animal welfare or the 42 per cent who said they didn't know.

It is for this reason we have written 'A Dog's Life' Manifesto, to guide a future Government on issues pertinent to those passionate about dogs and what more can be done to improve the lot of the UK's approximately 9 million dogs.

We very much hope that you will be able to accept this invitation, which will provide a platform to set out your party's plans on canine health and welfare policies.

Should you require further information, we would be grateful if your office could contact myself on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Scottish Kennel Club Secretary