Name & address of MP

August 2023

Dear xxxxx,

**Re: Animal Welfare Legislation in the England**

I am writing to you regarding the proposal to ban the use of electric shock collars.

As a dog owner in your constituency, I would like to establish your position on the Government's proposal to introduce legislation to bring England in line with the legislative bans in both Scotland and Wales.

I strongly oppose the production, sale and use of electric shock collars and feel they have no place in a world-leading country with such a proud history of stringent and robust animal welfare laws that prohibit the infliction of unnecessary pain and suffering on non-human animals.

Electric shock collars are designed to conduct up to 6,000 volts via metal conductors to the neck of a dog, sometimes for periods in excess of 10 seconds at a time. Whilst often vocal, the number of people supporting the use of this type of collar (and aversive training in general) is diminishing substantially and is certainly not supported by the thousands of educated, accredited and professionally competent trainers and behaviourists that are responsible for helping thousands of dogs and their guardians everyday throughout the country. My hope is that a ban on e-collar use in England will serve to increase public engagement in and the use of ethical, effective and welfare-friendly dog training methods that will likely lead to an increased understanding of canine communication and ultimately reduce the risk of living with dogs and the potential injuries they can cause.

I have successfully trained my dog using positive reinforcement which is not only kind, welfare-friendly and effective, it has helped me to build a strong, trusting and safe relationship with my dog. This is as opposed to attempting to force them through inflicting or threatening to inflict physical/psychological pain.

There is a strong body of peer-reviewed evidence which supports positive reinforcement to prevent unwanted behaviours - see China, L, Mills, DS Cooper, JJ (July 2020) ‘Efficacy of Dog Training With and Without Remote Electronic Collars vs. a Focus on Positive Reinforcement Frontiers in Veterinary Science’. Their use is also clearly contrary to the 2017 DEFRA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs.

I would urge you to support any Government attempts to ban these devices as a priority and look forward to hearing back from regarding your position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS