



## Why Should You Say NO to Shock Collars

Pets Behave Dog Training has seen an increasing number of pet dogs with problem behaviors due to harsh training methods, especially electronic stimulation devices, a.k.a. “shock collars or “e-collars.”

Unfortunately, well-intentioned dog owners looking for a quick fix are hiring trainers who use shock collars, or are buying shock collars and attempting to train dogs themselves.

Countless evidence indicates that, rather than speeding up the learning process, electronic stimulation devices slow it down, place great stress on the animal, can result in both short-term and long-term psychological damage, and lead to fearful, anxious and/or aggressive behavior.

Some dogs also are physically injured due to abuse of, misuse of, or malfunction of the equipment.

Humane training methods not only solve the problems at hand, but also are less likely to cause more problems down the road. Skillful training builds calm and cooperative behaviors in dogs through the structured use of reward-based training.

It is the position of Pets Behave Dog Training that the use of electronic stimulation collars on pets is not necessary for effective behavior modification or training and is damaging to the animal.

Electronic stimulation devices include products often referred to as: e-collars, training collars, e-touch, stimulation, tingle, TENS unit collar, remote trainers, or e-prods.

They have been banned in Scotland, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Slovenia, Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland, the province of Quebec in Canada, and the states of New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory and South Australia in Australia.

In the United States, major names and organizations also have made position statements against shock collars.

**Renowned veterinary behaviorist Dr. Karen Overall**, states that shock collars “violate the principles of three of five freedoms that define adequate welfare for animals: Freedom from pain, injury, and disease, freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress.”

Overall is referring to **Roger Brambell’s Five Freedoms, which have been a standard for assessing animal welfare since 1965.**



### **Humane Society of United States (HSUS)**

“The least humane and most controversial use of the shock collar is as a training device. The trainer can administer a shock to a dog at a distance through a remote control. There is a greater chance for abuse (delivery of shocks as punishment) or misuse (poor timing of shocks). Your dog also may associate the painful shock with people or other experiences, leading to fearful or aggressive behavior.”

### **American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB)**

“Punishment (e.g. choke chains, pinch collars, and electronic collars) should not be used as a first-line or early-use treatment for behavior problems. This is due to the potential adverse effects which include but are not limited to: inhibition of learning, increased fear-related and aggressive behaviors, and injury to animals and people interacting with animals.”

Dr. Ian Dunbar, veterinarian, animal behaviorist, dog trainer and founder of the **Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT)** sums it up perfectly:

“To use shock as an effective dog training method you will need: A thorough understanding of canine behavior; A thorough understanding of learning theory; Impeccable timing. And if you have all these things, you don’t need a shock collar”.

### **Why say NO to shock collars?**

- Shock controls a dog without allowing that dog to make choices and solve problems, which often results in 'learned helplessness' – the dog effectively learns to give up.
- Shock forces a dog to ‘behave’ with little concern for the root cause of the negative behavior.
- E-collar training essentially cripples an animal’s true learning ability.
- Shocking a dog can actually exacerbate aggressive behavior in the future.

Let’s ensure a better informed pet owner who seeks out humane alternatives to pet dog training.

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## References for additional info on the use of shock collars:

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