



Joint statement on electronic training devices and pinch collars

We, the organisations above, are opposed to the use of electronic training devices (ETDs) and pinch collars (also known as prong collars) believing they are unacceptable and unnecessary as a means of training and controlling dogs. We are calling for the sale and use of these devices to be prohibited.

ETDs and pinch collars are aversive training techniques based on the principle of applying something painful or frightening to reduce the likelihood of an unwanted behaviour occurring again.

ETDs deliver an electric pulse to inhibit behaviour. They can be operated manually via a remote controlled transmitter which is generally used to deliver shocks from a collar to inhibit a wide range of unwanted behaviours including aggression and predatory behaviour. Other types deliver a shock, activated at an invisible boundary line, to prevent a dog from leaving a defined area. The sale and use of these devices is already prohibited in Wales.

Pinch collars have a series of inward facing, metal prongs which are designed to tighten around the dog's neck and cause pain and discomfort when tension is applied through the lead. They are commonly used to control larger, more powerful dogs and to reduce pulling behaviour on the lead.

Aversive training techniques pose a risk to dog welfare, as recent Defra funded research on electronic training devices has shown. They also have great potential to be misused or cause abuse. They can worsen the behaviour problems they aim to address and can cause other undesirable problems to occur. Furthermore, their use to train and control dogs is unnecessary - trainers and behaviourists across the UK achieve long term behaviour change without subjecting dogs to methods which can cause pain and fear. Instead they use kinder, more humane reward based methods. More information on aversive training techniques, the risks posed to dog welfare and information on finding a suitable dog trainer and behaviourist can be found at www.dogwelfarecampaign.org.uk.

We strongly believe that in modern society there is no excuse, or need, for techniques which can compromise dog welfare and we are calling for the sale and use of electronic training devices and pinch collars to be banned.