

Electrische honden halsbanden moeten gereguleerd worden maar niet verboden. Er is teveel bewijs dat ze, in de goede handen van een ervaren hondentrainer, het leven van honden met een sterk jachtgedrag en ook het leven van kleinvee zoals schapen kunnen veraangemen en zelfs sparen. In het verleden werden honden blootgesteld aan lijfstraffen of in het uiterste geval moest een al te enthustiaste hond worden afgemaakt.

Dierenartsen, politiehonden trainers en jachthonden trainers en de eigenaren van honden met een sterk temperament weten maar al te goed hoe werkzaam de e-halsband kan zijn. Geen van deze eigenaren is erop uit zijn of haar hond te pijnigen. De prikkel wordt wel degelijk onthouden en de hond kan zich na training minstens een jaar zonder halsband in bepaalde situaties veilig handhaven.

Regulatie kan plaatsvinden door de halsband alleen door trainers met vergunning te laten gebruiken, of door de setting op halsbanden te verlagen zodat extreem hoge prikkeling geen optie meer is. Deze opties moeten grondig onderzocht worden voordat de 'feel good' lobby van zachte heeimeesters straks stinkende wonden maakt.... Een koekje is niet genoeg om ingeboren instincten bij bepaalde rassen aan banden te leggen.

1) The Government claims that there is no "scientific basis" for electronic training with dog collars.

Well the Government does not appear to have read the science which shows that e-collars can be very effective at training dogs to hold back from their predatory instincts:

"The collar averted all 13 attempted attacks on lambs" *Andelt* [1]

"No dogs showed interest in or attacked a lone sheep in the path test" *Christiansen* [2]

E-collars "resulted in complete and permanent elimination of aggression in all of the 36 dogs tested" *Tortora* [3]

the aversion response does not require continued use of the e-collar and "lasts at least 1 year after training" *Dale and Statham* [4]

"the electronic training collar induces less distress and shows stronger 'learning effect' in dogs" *Salgirl* [5]

"e-collars... the most effective treatment for discouraging predatory behaviour in dogs" *Howell and Bennett* [6]

"electronic training collars can be an effective remedial measure for some types of problem behaviour in dogs" *Coleman and Murray* [7]

Negative reinforcement is "desirable and necessary" *Marschark and Baenninger* [8]

It is crucial to note that the training endures even when the dog is not wearing the collar. This is key for when dogs have escaped from their owners.

2) The Government also argues that "the latest scientific insights" show that "positive" training - using biscuits - should be used instead.

However an academic paper published this year found experts to be "pessimistic that it would be possible to prevent predatory behaviour in dogs using only positive, reward-based methods". [9]

Thank you for reading this - and thank you for adding your voice to the Government consultation!

Sources

[1] "The collar averted all 13 attempted attacks on lambs"

Andelt: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258098937_Coyote_predation_on_domestic_sheep_deterred_with_electronic_dog_training_collar

[2] "No dogs showed interest in or attacked a lone sheep in the path test"

Christiansen: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11278032>

[3] e-collars "resulted in complete and permanent elimination of aggression in all of the 36 dogs tested... the only treatment that has potential for success" Tortora: <https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/about.illinoisstate.edu/dist/6/45/files/2019/10/tortora-1983-safety-signal-training-elimination-of-avoidance-motivated-aggression-in-dogs.pdf>

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- [5] "the electronic training collar induces less distress and shows stronger 'learning effect' in dogs in comparison to the pinch collar" Saigirli 2008: <https://leerburg.com/pdf/comparingecollarprongandquittingsignal.pdf>
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- [7] "electronic training collars can be an effective remedial measure for some types of problem behaviour in dogs" Coleman and Murray: http://aiam.org.au/resources/Documents/2000%20UAM/PUB_Pro00_TaniaColeman_RichardMurray.pdf
- [8] Negative reinforcement "desirable and necessary" Marschark and Baenninger: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.2752/089279302786992685>
- [9] "pessimistic that it would be possible to prevent predatory behaviour...." see Howell and Bennett: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S016815912030071X>