

POSITION STATEMENT

The use of choke, pinch, prong, shock and e-collars

Position

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth does not support the use of aversive equipment such as prong or pinch collars, choke chains, shock collars or e-collars.

The Society believes in using the most positive, humane and scientifically proven¹ methods of training with our dogs and encourage dog owners to follow suit.

At our centres, we use positive reinforcement training or otherwise known as “fear and force-free”. This means at no point do we support the use of equipment that causes fear, pain or damages a dog’s behaviour.

Rationale

- These types of collars are painful and inhumane.
 - They can interfere with breathing
 - They can cause serious and permanent damage to a dog’s neck and throat, voice box and back.
- These types of collars suppress behavior, but don’t change it. They temporarily change behavior, but don’t teach animals what they should be doing instead.
- There are more humane alternatives, especially ones that create positive associations. These types of collars are known to create negative associations.
- Various local, provincial/state and national animal welfare organizations already disagree with the use of these tools, and instead promote the use of positive reinforcement training as a more humane method.
- Various jurisdictions currently ban these types of collars:
 - In 2014, Quebec put a new provincial law into place, banning the use of collars that cause pain or breathing difficulties. Fines for using these types of devices range from \$600-\$12,000 for a first-time offence, which if repeated, could triple.
 - Countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Austria, Switzerland and others have made prong collars, and in many cases choke and shock collars, illegal.

¹ *International Positive Dog Training Association, ‘List of research findings as conducted by the IPDTA’*
(<http://www.ipdta.org/research-findings.html>)