



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01555

Name of petitioner

Siobhan Garrahy

Petition title

Electric Shock and Vibration Collars for Animals

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban the cruel and completely unnecessary use of electric shock and vibration collars on animals in Scotland.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I have contacted the head of the SSPCA, Mike Flynn, who confirms that the charity completely opposes the use of electric shock and vibration collars on animals as either a training or compliance tool but as they are legal in Scotland they are unable to enforce this is in law.

I have also contacted the MSP Christine Grahame, prior to the submission of this petition.

Petition background information

As well as electric shock collars being opposed by the SSPCA, most credible animal trainers believe it is cruel to do deliver an electric shock as a training method. The preferred training method is reward based and not fear or pain based.

The Welsh parliament set the precedent for welfare in this area in 2010 by banning them in Wales. The Welsh government supported by the RSPCA and the kennel club, to name but a few organisations who wanted these devices banned, and with huge public support undertook three consultations, please see link below, which confirmed to them that animals do indeed feel pain and suffer stress as a result of being shocked. I implore the Scottish Parliament to do the same.

The association of pet behaviourists advises that " the use of devices that rely on pain or discomfort to modify behaviour are inappropriate as they have the potential to seriously compromise the welfare of dogs and ruin their relationship with their owners."

Please see link attached

<http://www.apbc.org.uk/articles/shockcollars>

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2010/100224shock/?lang=en>

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/banelectricshockcollars>

Related information for petition

- <http://www.apbc.org.uk/articles/shockcollars>
- <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200405/cmselect/cmenvfru/52/52we97.htm>
- <http://www.rspca.org.uk/getinvolved/campaign/dogownership/collars>
- <http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/az/e/electricshockcollars/#.VEdlQ-29Kc0>
- <http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/our-resources/media-centre/issue-statements/electric-shock-collars-issue-statement/>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

18 / 03 / 2015

Comments to stimulate online discussion

The purpose of this petition is to ban the cruel and unnecessary use of electric shock collars in animals as a training and compliance tool. They are not necessary and any good animal behaviourist will promote reward base training methods that are appropriate and effective. The SSPCA, the Association of Animal Behaviourists and many other Animal Welfare groups and activists reject the use of electric shock collars and we call on the Scottish Government to ban their use.