

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail, Biadh agus an Àrainneachd  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment

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John Pentland *MSP*  
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Public Petitions Committee  
Room T3.40  
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Edinburgh  
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*Dear John,*

Following my letter of 6 June regarding Petition PE1555 on electric shock and vibration collars for animals and your further discussions in the Petitions Committee, I am writing to confirm the current Scottish Government position on this issue.

After considering further information about the use of electronic collars in Scotland and other countries and on the basis for the ban in Wales, on 5 July I announced that a public consultation on this matter will be issued in the next few months. The press release can be found at: <http://scottishgovernment.presscentre.com/News/Electronic-training-collars-for-dogs-1ae8.aspx>

The options to be suggested will include a ban or controls on the type of collars that may be used and how they may be used – which we have seen work in other parts of the world, for example in New Zealand and in Victoria, Australia.

I hope that this consultation will address the concerns raised by the petitioner and others about the use of electronic collars for training animals.

**RICHARD LOCHHEAD**