



1. Know the names of your elected representatives

By internet, go to www.writetothem.com, type in your post code and make a note of your Westminster MP and, if you live in Wales or Scotland, your MSPs and Welsh AMs. (In Wales you have one constituency AM and five regional AMs. In Scotland you have one constituency MSP and seven regional MSPs.) Then return to this page and follow the guidelines.

By email, send me an email to duncan.mcnair@btinternet.com with your postcode and I will send you back the name(s) of your elected representatives.

By phone, call 01342 313836 or 07941 082694 give me your post code and I will look them up for you. Or you can call or visit your local library and they will give you the name(s) and also the number(s) for making appointments.

2. To arrange an appointment with your MP/MSP or Welsh AM, you need to find out the telephone number of the Constituency Office

Phone the House of Commons switchboard on 0207 219 3000 and ask to speak to your MP. You will generally speak to a member of his or her staff or leave a message. Persist until you get through.

Phone or visit your local library. They will give you the number.

Once you have the number, phone the Constituency Office and make an appointment to attend his or her 'surgery'

A surgery provides all members of the public with a chance to meet face to face with their MP/MSPs or Welsh AMs. Attending your MP's surgery will be the most powerful way of making your MP aware of the benefits of electronic training. This will allow your MP to quickly take up the issue in Parliament.

It is always worthwhile to meet your MP at a surgery because in most cases the biggest factor that will influence an MP's actions is the views and concerns of his/her constituents.

3. Action Guide for meeting your MP

Introduce yourself and what you are there to discuss.

Take a note pad with you so you can have something to refer back to in the future.

State your support for electronic collars clearly to your MP, countering any opposing points that they may make.

Remember, however passionate you feel about risk to the safety of your pets if collars are banned, please remain focused and polite.

Once you have made your position clear, allow your MP to present you with his/hers.

Stick to the issue of saving pets lives and the greater freedom that electronic training collars give to cats and dogs. you will have a limited amount of time with him/her and it is important to make sure you get across all the points you wish to make.

Listen carefully for areas of agreement and disagreement and always be positive.

Try to ask questions that will probe your MP's personal viewpoint rather than that of their party. Although an MP represents the policy of their party their own viewpoint may differ.

Always be aware of time so you cover all the points you wish to make.

At the end of the meeting briefly run through what you have discussed and what steps you can take going forward.

Thank your MP for the meeting and if you wish, let your MP know that they can contact you in the future to discuss the issue further.

Please let us know the result of your meeting and the attitude of your MP before and after the meeting, not forgetting to give your contact details.

4. Now click here for guidance for writing to your MPs/MSPs and/or Welsh AMs.