



**t.COG**<sup>®</sup>  
Training Collar Owners Group

Dear Pet Owner,

## The threat to Electronic Training Collars

As an owner of one or more electronic training collars you may be aware that some organisations have created a campaign to ban these products. Most of the members of the public who are concerned about possible harmful effects from the training collars have been alarmed by tabloid-like scare stories although they have never used an electronic training product or known anyone who has. The campaign aims to force the Westminster Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly to take action to ban outright the sale and use of electronic training collars.

## How has this campaign against e-collars arisen?

As the Kennel Club develops its dog training business, it wants to be seen as more of an animal welfare organisation like the DogsTrust and the RSPCA but these organisations are opposed to tail docking. The Kennel Club supports tail docking because it represents the dog breed societies, many of which want to retain the practice. One possible reason for its campaign against electronic training collars could be the need to enhance its credentials as a bona fide animal welfare organisation.

The presence in the dog training market of a range of products that enables members of the public to train their dogs easily and humanely is obvious competition for the Kennel Club's expanding branded business of training dog trainers. In fact, many owners have spent a small fortune on professional training for problem dogs without success only to find they can solve the problem themselves with an electronic training product and have a happy and well behaved dog.

Remember also that, like the RSPCA and the DogsTrust and many similar charities, the Kennel Club relies on campaigns to boost income and membership and the most lucrative campaigns are based on righting some wrong. This is the essential core of most charity work but if a campaign is based on false assumptions it can lead to injustice and the unintended consequences of causing more harm than the issue the campaign is focused on. Arrogance can also enter in so that it simply becomes an exercise in being right.

## The story so far in Parliament

After a careful and lengthy consultation process on reform of the animal welfare legislation, Defra introduced its Animal Welfare Bill in 2006 and it was duly passed into law as the Animal Welfare Act and came into force in April 2007. Similar legislation known as the Animal Health and Welfare Act passed by the Scottish Parliament also came into force into April of this year. The next stage in Westminster, Edinburgh and Cardiff would be for the governments to introduce regulations (also known as secondary legislation) on a number of animal welfare issues which they have the right to do under both the Acts of Parliament.

Please see our Latest News page for the current situation regarding the consultations in Scotland and Wales and the scientific study on e-collars being conducted by Defra for the UK Government.

The campaigners against electronic training collars want to see the products banned under this form of regulation and these can be voted through with very little discussion. This is now the danger for pets and their owners who use electronic collars.

## Action stations

**IT IS VITAL THAT YOU, THE COLLAR OWNERS, MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD.** In the links on this page are all the tools you need to let politicians and the doggie press know that electronic training collars save human and animal lives and make life better for both pets and owners. There are some important actions you can take to protect your right to protect your pet.

Join t-COG® – the Training Collar Owners Group. Fill in and return the more info form on the History page of this website and we will send you a membership form.

Print off and complete the [survey](#) for collar owners and then return it to us at the contact address given at [Contact us](#).

Let all your friends who have training collars know by email or letter about the danger, and about this campaign in support of e-collars. Direct them to the website at Contact your MP and MSPs or Welsh Assembly Members (AMs) – either by letter to make your views known or by phone to arrange to meet them. You should visit the constituency office if you are physically able to and also invite them to visit you at home to see how contented and relaxed your pets are.

To find out the names of your MP, MSPs or Welsh AMs, go to [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com) and then back to this page to select [writing](#) or [meeting](#) your elected representative.

Lord Duncan McNair - Parliamentary Adviser to the Electronic Collar Manufacturers Association.

*Duncan McNair.*