

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR; NOT THE DOG, THE TRAINER!

By Gwendy & Alfie Williams

How do we protect our pets and ourselves from those willing to harm us for profit? In a world full of cons disguised as quick fixes, we have to be diligent. It takes fortitude and a strong ethical foundation to resist the temptation quick fixes offer. Otherwise, we are deceived into believing in false miracles. Electric shock collars are perfect example.

Shock collars have two protruding electrodes that penetrate an animal's fur under the neck where it's sensitive. The trainer delivers a shock of varying intensities and duration via remote control. For decades, hunting dogs have had to endure electric shocks but now shock collars and electronic containment systems are available in most pet stores for anyone to purchase.

Why would trainers use electric shock to train? Simply put it produces immediate behavior changes, enabling a higher turnover and more income. Many pet owners buy into the authority figure of the trainer and don't ask 'at what cost to the dog?' Studies show that dogs that suffer shocks often develop deep-seated behavioural problems and are more prone to attacking humans. Shocked dogs often take on submissive behaviours in an attempt to stop being hurt, withdraw, or shut down altogether. This new subdued behaviour is construed as well behaved and that is when the trainer claims success. The damage can be severe, both physical and psychological. Most positive based trainers have a list of 'ruined' dogs they've tried to rehabilitate, ruined by a trainer using shock collars.

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Preying on our desire for quick results, profit driven trainers will use a number of ruses to either hide the fact they are using shock collars or use semantics to mask the truth. Insisting they need to work with the dog alone for a few days is a sure sign you wouldn't approve the methods used. Claiming they use 'training collars' that 'tap', 'tingle' or 'just get the dogs attention' are shock collars rebranded. The most popular trick is to have you try it on yourself, at a low setting on the arm knowing what's about to happen. This in no way replicates the pain, fear and anxiety the dog experiences. Sadly, many pet owners fall for the trainer's lie that this is a safe and humane way to teach their dog.

Renowned animal organizations such as: The BCSPCA, The Kennel Club, The Humane Society Of Canada and many others are opposed to the use of shock collars.

To find more visit www.banshockcollars.ca.

To help gather signatures to stop the sale and use of shock devices in Canada, please email info@banshockcollars.ca