



Shock-Free San Francisco

Introducing draft legislation banning the use and sale of dog training e-collars



"There is no role for aversive training
in behavior modification plans
...even for dogs with aggressive behaviors"

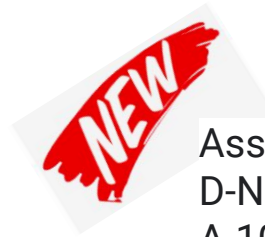
The American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior ([2021 Position Statement](#))

As the first city in the nation to ban the use of e-collars, San Francisco lives up to our tradition as a frontier of justice, rights for all, and progressive ideas.



Shock Collars are now banned in:

- ▷ Germany
- ▷ Denmark
- ▷ Sweden
- ▷ Norway
- ▷ Austria
- ▷ Switzerland
- ▷ Wales
- ▷ Quebec
- ▷ Parts of Australia
- ▷ Slovenia



Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, D-New York City, has introduced A.10700 to ban the sale of shock collars in the state of New York
(September 2022)

Science-Based and Humane

Research

The last 30 years have seen an explosion of research on how dogs learn and the most effective ways to train them.

The science is clear: punishment and the use of aversive tools are not as effective as using positive reinforcement and force-free methods

Compassion

E-collars work to decrease unwanted behaviors because the dog wants to avoid the pain, discomfort, vibration, or tone.

Dogs can be successfully trained without the use of pain or fear. Trying to change behavior with the press of a button is sheer laziness and impatience.

What does the research show?



Punitive training techniques increase the risk of aggression in dogs.

Casey et al.

Human directed aggression in domestic dogs: occurrence in different contexts and risk factors.

[Applied Animal Behaviour Science](#) 152 (2014): 52-63.



Shock collars are unnecessary and detrimental to animal welfare.

J. J. Cooper, N. Cracknell, J. Hardiman, H. Wright, D. Mills.

[Open Source version of the DEFRA studies](#) (2014)



Confrontational dog training methods can elicit aggressive responses.

Herron et al.

The use and outcome of confrontational and non-confrontational training methods in dogs showing undesired behaviors.

Applied Animal Behaviour Science 117 (2009): 47-54. (See [commentary](#))

Why legislate this?



Who supports this legislation?

- [San Francisco SPCA](#)
- [Jean Donaldson](#) (The Academy of Professional Dog Trainers)
- [Micheal Shikasio](#) (World Renowned Aggressive Dog Trainer)
- [Petco](#) Petco banned the sale of shock collars in all their US stores in 2020
- [The San Francisco Guild of Professional Dog Walkers](#) (SF group with 451 members)
- [Family Dog Rescue](#) (Local Dog Rescue)
- [Muttville](#) (SF-Based Senior Dog Rescue)
- [BayWoof](#) (Bay Area Community Supported Dog News)
- [Hang Around Hound](#) (SF Dog Boarding Facility)
- [SF Puppy Prep](#) (Daycare and Puppy Training)
- [Go Dog Pro](#) (SF-Based National Directory of Force-Free Dog Professionals)
- [DogBiz](#) and the Dog Walking Academy

Draft of the Ordinance

Description

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors finds that using electronic shock collars (e-collars, stim collars, and bark collars) on dogs is cruel and inhumane. The legislature further finds that electronic dog collars have a negative impact on dog welfare.

This ordinance prohibits the sale, distribution, or use of electric shock and stim e-collars for dogs. Specifies penalties.

Terminology

An electronic collar is a training tool that delivers an electrical stimulus, usually to the neck of the dog, through electrodes incorporated into the collar. There are a variety of electronic collars available for sale in the United States. There is currently no standard or regulation for manufacturing e-collars: stimulus strength varies between different e-collar brands and models.

There are three categories of e-collars. This ordinance applies to all three categories:

1. remote devices/hand-held
2. bark-collars or noise-activated collars (some deliver electric current, some spray citronella as a punishment)
3. containment systems/invisible fencing

Note that different terms are used to describe electronic collars: shock collar, e-collar, electronic collar, electric collar, electronic training collar, remote training collar, electric pulse training aid, e-stimulus, e-stim, anti-bark or noise-activated control collars, etc. This ordinance recognizes these terms as interchangeable. (*GPS tracking collars are excluded)

1. Prohibition on the use of electronic collars on dogs

It is prohibited for a person to —

- (a) attach an electronic collar to a dog;
- (b) cause an electronic collar to be attached to a dog; or
- (c) be responsible for a dog to which an electronic collar is attached

2. Prohibition on the sale and distribution of electronic collars for dogs

It is prohibited for a person, business, or organization to —

- (a) sell
- (b) distribute
- (c) or use electric shock dog collars when training, walking, boarding, or pet sitting dogs

3. Cruelty to animals in the second degree is a misdemeanor and shall be punishable in the following manner:

- (a) For the first offense, a fix-it ticket shall be issued
- (b) For the second offence, a fine of not less than \$250; and
- (c) For any subsequent offense, a fine of not less than \$500 and imprisonment not exceeding six months, impoundment of the dog at the expense of the owner or person having custody of the dog pending compliance with this section, forfeiture of the dog, or any combination thereof.

4. Enforcement

This ordinance allows San Francisco Animal Care and Control (SF ACC) officers to issue tickets to non-compliant dog owners, dog walkers, businesses, and dog trainers.

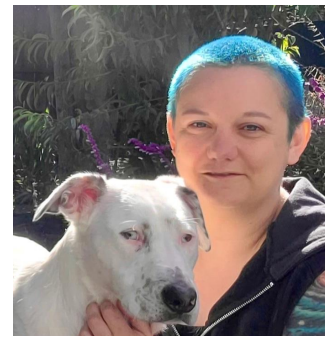
All businesses within San Francisco city limits will be required to remove e-collars from dogs in their care and/or remove e-collars from their stores and cease using or selling them.

Who is Behind This?



Ren Volpe

- Founder and CEO of [GoDogPro.com](https://www.godogpro.com)
- Dog Trainer and Behavior Consultant
- Certified Behavior Consultant
Canine-Knowledge Assessed
(CBCC-KA)
- Certified Separation Anxiety Trainer
(CSAT)
- Fear Free Certified Professional
- DogTec Certified Dog Walker
- Pet Professional Guild and Shock-Free
Coalition Member
- Dog Owner and Dog Advocate



LT Taylor

- Current San Francisco Animal Care & Control
Behavior & Training division evaluator and
trainer, former Behavior & Training supervisor
- Current Dogbiz Dog Walking Academy
instructor
- Junior in The Academy for Dog Trainers,
pursuing CTC
- Fear Free Shelter Certified
- Passionate supporter and volunteer for the
Rural Area Veterinary Services (RAVS)
program
- Pet Professional Guild member

Thanks!

Any questions?

Contact me:

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Other Resources (links)

- [Shock Free Coalition:](#)
- [Pet Professional Guild](#)
- [Ban Shock Collars Canada](#)

