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November 10, 2022

Supervisor Dean Preston

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

City Hall, Room 224

San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Proposed legislation banning the use and sale of dog training shock collars in San Francisco.

Dear Supervisor Preston:

As it is the responsibility of the Commission of Animal Control and Welfare (ACWC) to advise the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BOS) on animal issues, we want to bring to your attention a draft legislative proposal that was presented at our most recent meeting by two San Francisco residents who are actively involved in the dog training community.

At our October 11, 2022, general meeting, the Commission heard Ren Volpe, Founder, and CEO of GoDogPro.com, and LT Taylor, Behavior and Training Division Evaluator for the Department of Animal Care and Control, present on their Proposal to ban the use and sale of dog training shock collars in San Francisco (shock collars are also be known as e-collars or stim collars - please see below note). Immediately following the presentation and discussion, the Commission voted in favor of supporting the Proposal.

The Commission agrees with the presenters that the practice of administering animal training through pain is inconsistent with our City's values of treating all life with kindness. Furthermore, there's ample evidence that supports positive reinforcement training is the most effective and humane approach to training and behavior modification. Research shows that adverse behavior training techniques, such as the use of shock collars, increased the risk of fear, anxiety, and aggression in dogs. It is detrimental to an animal's well-being and is completely unnecessary.

Several animal welfare organizations widely support a ban on shock collars, including local organizations such as the SF/SPCA and our own Department of Animal Care and Control. In 2020, Petco banned the sale of shock collars in all their stores nationwide. In addition, nine countries have already banned the use of shock collars. These countries include Germany, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. The idea of ending the use of shock collars is something that is very much in the mainstream and is something that we know that our residents



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would enthusiastically welcome. By doing so, San Francisco would be the first City in the United States to ban the use of shock collars.

Please accept this letter as a confirmation of Commission support for the Proposal. As the presenters mentioned that they have started to contact Supervisors concerning the proposed ban, we wanted to make you aware of our support. We hope that you will help to make this Proposal a reality.

Thank you in advance for your attention and consideration. If you should have any questions concerning this letter or the Proposal, please feel free to reach out to Commission Chairperson Michael Angelo Torres at michaelangelo.torres@sfdph.org.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Animal Control and Welfare Commissioners

*Note - There are different terms to describe shock collars: electric collar, e-collar, electronic collar, electric collar, electronic training collar, remote training collar, electric pulse training aid, e-stimulus, e-stim, and anti-bark or noise activate control collars. The Proposal recognizes these terms as interchangeable (GPS tracking collars not included).

CC: Ren Volpe, GoDogPro.com; LT Taylor, SF Animal Care and Control