Why Should I Use An Electronic Collar For My Dog?

Behaviour-activated electronic collars have been recognized as effective training equipment when used properly and in accordance with humane principles. Currently, there are no comparable techniques or tools available that can match the efficacy and safety of the electronic collar for establishing safe and reliable off-leash control. If minimizing the intensity, duration, and frequency of aversive stimulation during training is recognized as a significant factor, then the electronic collar should be ranked as one of the most humane dog-training tools. This training is most effective when used to enhance basic modules and routines previously shaped by means of conventional reward-based training.

Electric dog collars are humane and safe to use. When used properly as a training tool, they work very well to contain your dog. You need to read all the information that comes with the collar and learn how to use it. Set up visible boundaries for your dog, so that it can see and learn where the boundaries are example training flags. In spite of the stigma associated with them, dog aficionados and even certified dog trainers swear by the unparalleled efficacy of these collars in improving the temperament of stubborn, hard to train or restless dogs, reinforcing behaviours such as defining “safe” areas and “out of bounds” areas and correcting other unwanted behaviours like chasing, digging, escaping under your fence or yard, etc.

What Makes These Electronic Training Devices More Humane Than Their Predecessors?

Today’s advanced technology enables the manufacture of electronic training devices that emit a very mild electrical stimulation at lower levels (static stimulation). They offer improved reliability, versatility and state-of-the-art safety features that result in technology that is responsive to behavioural issues; a factor which can enhance the pet ownership experience, strengthening the bond between pets and their human companions.

Reputable manufacturers of electronic dog collars have safety cut-out switches that prevent the dog from receiving a prolonged correction in case it gets stuck in a correction zone. Electric dog collars no longer have one high level of correction. They have multiple levels designed to find the right one for each pet without causing stress. Many new devices offer a range of variable stimulation that can accommodate factors
including pet size, activity level, temperament, etc. These devices draw their static stimulation from batteries in the collar. The energy level they produce is very limited, and comparable to the static stimulation received upon touching a metal object after walking across carpet. It is uncomfortable, surprising, startling and one quickly draws away, but is neither harmful nor painful. These have an output of less than 2% (100 milliamps) of what is required to create any type of thermal burn.

As the electric dog collar increases in correction level, electrical output does not increase. Only the individual pulses increase in number per second, which means the intensity of the correction does not change even as you increase the correction level. The level of discomfort will actually increase as the correction level increases with the increasing number of pulses per second to find the optimum correction level for learning. Defined as the minimum level that stops the unwanted behaviour, it is required to get the best possible training response.

**Are Electronic Collars Legal In My State?**

Electronic collars remain a hot topic among animal welfare advocates. There is no nationwide ban on them, but most Australian states have restrictions and prohibitions in place when dealing with devices that use static correction products on animals. In order to know whether the remote electronic dog collar is allowed in your state or not, see the list below:

### Is the use of electronic dog collars legal?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Yes/No</th>
<th>Name of relevant act/special conditions and requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Animal Welfare Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Section 16 of the Act, Section 13 and Schedule 1 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (General) Regulation 1996 and Schedule 1 make the use of electric dog collars illegal. One exception to this rule is electric collars associated with canine invisible boundaries. These are not illegal provided the canine invisible boundary is used to confine dogs, but only used inside a fence through which dogs cannot pass and that is not less than 1.5 metres high.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Regulation 4 and Schedule 1 of the Animal Welfare Regulations allow for the use of electric shock collars in the course of training a dog (excluding collars operated by a remote control device).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Animal Welfare Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Animal Welfare Act 1993 (As long as there is no pain to the animal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Animal Welfare (General ) Regulations 2003</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Before buying one, be sure to check if your state allows its use, otherwise you may be penalized.

General Legal Requirements Relating to The Use of Electronic Collars

- You must not use an electronic collar on any animal other than a dog.
- You must only use authorised electronic collars on dogs. These include ‘remote training’, ‘anti-bark’, or ‘containment’ collars.

You must not use an authorised electronic collar unless:

- A veterinary practitioner has examined the physical health and temperament of the dog and reasonably believes that the dog is suitable to have an authorised electronic collar used on it.
- The dog is over 6 months of age.
- A collar is not left on the dog for more than 12 hours in any 24-hour period
- The use is in accordance with instructions for use of the collar provided by the manufacturer.
- The dog is introduced to the use of the collar in accordance with a training program that complies with the Code of Practice for Training Dogs and Cats to Wear Electronic Collars, made under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.
- The collar complies with the following specifications1: a) the power of the collar must not exceed either 15 milliamps root mean square or 100 milliamps single pulse with a maximum duration of 3 milliamps per second b) the length of the stimulation period must be limited by an automatic safety cut-out c) the collar must provide for variable levels of static stimulation.
- The collar contacts have safe, rounded points.
- The distance between the collar contact points does not exceed 60 millimetres.

Specific Legal Requirements Relating to Containment Collars
'Containment collar' means an electric collar that is designed to be worn by an animal as part of a containment system.

'Containment system' means a method of containing animals to a specific area through the use of a boundary wire and transmitter that sends a radio signal to a receiver in a containment collar, which then delivers a correction to an animal if it gets too close to the boundary wire.

A person must not use a containment collar on a dog unless they have ensured that the pet is trained to use the containment system and collar by:

- A veterinary practitioner, a qualified dog/cat trainer or competent trainer
- A person acting under the supervision and written instructions of the above 3.

* A 'qualified dog trainer' is defined as “a person who meets the requirements of regulation 49(2) of the Domestic Animals Regulations 2005.”

* A 'competent trainer' is defined as “a person who is employed by a company that sells containment systems, and who is competent to conduct a containment system training program for dogs that complies with the Code of Practice for Training Dogs and Cats to Wear Electronic Collars, made under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.”

By simply installing a quality containment or electric dog fence system, an escaping dog would be better off receiving a few “static” corrections than the sensation of being hit by a truck! The next time someone questions the use of electronic dog collars ensure they are talking about modern dog containment systems, not ones from past decades!