

Shock Collars

Shock collars can cause dogs physical pain, injury (ranging from burns to thyroid dysfunction, to cardiac fibrillation), and psychological stress, including severe anxiety and re-directed aggression. Dogs will associate the shock with what they are looking at when the shock occurs. Thus, if you shock a dog for trying to leave the yard when the kids get off the school bus, you can easily create a dog with severe aggression towards children.

While many shock collar trainers claim success in stopping a behavior using a shock collar, what they won't tell you is that shock collars intensify the EMOTION underlying the response. While your dog may cease his behavior because he knows the shock collar is on, he will silently harbor an increasingly deep hatred of the target of his behavior. Given the opportunity in the future to act without the shock collar, your dog's response will be a LOT more intense and severe. Utilizing a shock collar as a method of training increases the risk of future aggression and is a huge liability risk. If you would like to do some research, Google "shock collar trainer lawsuit".

Individual animals vary in their temperaments and pain thresholds; a shock that seems mild to one dog might be severe to another. The anxiety and confusion caused by repeated shocks can lead to changes in a dog's heart and respiration rate or gastrointestinal disorders. Electronic collars can also malfunction, either administering no shocks at all or nonstop shocks. Shock collars have been banned in many other countries and are considered inhumane.

Electric ("Invisible") Fences

Dogs whose yards are surrounded by electric fences may develop fear or aggression aimed at what they believe is the source of the shock (kids riding by on bikes, the mail carrier, the dog next door, etc.). Dogs have been known to run through electric fences when frightened by fireworks or chasing a squirrel and then be too scared to cross back through the barrier. A dog who gets a burst of adrenaline will actually only feel a small percentage of the shock as they leave the yard.

Electric fences may actually also *encourage* animals to try to escape. Since dogs only suffer painful shocks in the yard, they might associate the shock with the yard itself—once they get out of the yard, the pain goes away. The fact that the pain returns at full force when they try to re-enter the yard can cause dogs to believe that they are being punished for returning home.

Even when animals are successfully confined to the yard with an electric fence, they are still in danger of attacks by roaming dogs, cruel humans, or other animals who can freely enter the property. Electric fences are a dog thief's dream come true!

Prong Collars

Prong and choke collars can do much more damage than just yanking and choking a dog. Depending on the size of the dog, how hard the dog pulls, and how forcefully the person holding the leash yanks, choke collars can cause serious injuries, including the following:

- Damage to the thyroid gland, leading to metabolic and behavior problems
- Intervertebral disc protrusion
- Partial or complete fore- or hind-limb paralysis from spinal cord injuries
- Damage to the vagus nerve, affecting the function of major organs, including the heart, lungs, liver, bladder, spleen, and kidneys
- A crushed trachea, with partial or complete asphyxiation
- Crushed or fractured bones in the larynx
- A bruised esophagus
- Sharp increases in pressure inside the head, which can cause brain or eye damage and sometimes prolapse of the eye
- Bruising and damage to the skin and tissues in the neck, resulting in the formation of scar tissue
- Fainting

Dogs who are repeatedly yanked and choked may become resentful, aggressive, and fearful of hands.

Real (physical) fences and positive training methods, in which dogs are rewarded for good behavior, are kinder and more effective than force-based, fear-based methods. While positive training methods may take more knowledge, time, and patience to administer, they result in a much safer relationship with your dog than shock collars or prong collars.



**DON'T SHOCK OR CHOKE YOUR DOG.
MODERN DOG TRAINING IS SCIENTIFIC AND HUMANE.**

You don't need to be bigger and stronger than your dog....you just need to be smarter.