

Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Fourth Floor  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

17 May 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: The Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (England) Regulations 2023

As you may know, our organisations have been working together in campaigning for many years for the use of electronic shock collars which emit electric shocks to dogs, to be banned. We were delighted when the Government laid the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (England) Regulations 2023 on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, and we all welcomed this commitment to improve the welfare of dogs and cats. However, the ban was due to come into force on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, and this date has disappointingly been missed.

We are writing to you to ask that you ensure that parliamentary time is made available for these regulations to be passed, and this important step forward for dog training and animal welfare is taken. We urge the Government to re-table the Statutory Instrument and make parliamentary time for the regulations with sufficient implementation time as soon as possible.

Given the overwhelming evidence, our organisations have long concluded that there is no suitable environment for the use of these aversive training devices to ever be used to train a dog. There are numerous scientific studies that highlight the detrimental impact that electronic shock collars may have on a dog's welfare, including research commissioned by your own department<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the routine use of electronic shock collars even in accordance with best practice (as suggested by collar manufacturers) presents a risk to the well-being of pet dogs.

It is clear that there is public support for a ban on the use of electronic shock collars in England. Last year over 51,000 of our supporters wrote to their MP to seek clarification on when this important piece of legislation would pass through its final Commons stage, prior to being enacted on February 1<sup>st</sup>. In addition, two separate polling exercises, independently commissioned by The Kennel Club and RSPCA, both showed the overwhelming public support for a ban on shock collars. The polling results highlighted that over 9 in 10 UK adults support an urgent ban on the use of shock collars in England.

Just this month (May 2024) a ban on the use of electronic shock collars operated by hand-held remote controls on dogs and cats has been announced in the Republic of Ireland. With a ban on electronic shock collars already in place in Wales since 2010, we hope the Government delivers on its promise to ban remote controlled electric shock collars in England.

Given this, we hope that the Government remains committed to bringing forward this legislation without delay, as was intended on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024. We, as a coalition of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/animal-welfare-banning-the-use-of-electronic-training-collars-for-cats-and-dogs>

organisations, would like to meet with you to discuss this topic. If your diary allows, please contact [danielle.knight@thekennelclub.org.uk](mailto:danielle.knight@thekennelclub.org.uk) to arrange this.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Beazley  
Chief Executive  
The Kennel Club



Peter Laurie  
Chief Executive  
Battersea Dogs & Cats  
Home



Paula Boyden  
Veterinary Director  
Dogs Trust



Becky Thwaites  
Head of Public Affairs  
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Dr Anna Judson  
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