

Here is the tragic story of a healthy 15 pound Maltese/Shih Tzu cross who suffered severely because a training franchise was able to sell their services to an unwitting loving dog owner who was simply looking for help. Instead she was led into a cruel deception with her dog paying the ultimate price. And people ask us, why are we calling for a ban. Well, here is why.

He Didn't Deserve This

My dog Wolf was a physically healthy 15 lb Maltese/Shih Tzu mix. He was a handful at times; with what looked like issues with impulse control and fear aggression. Yet he was never turned away by a vet or groomer and when he came to trust them was easy for them to handle. He was all boy and determined to do things his way.

Knowing what I do now I could have dealt with those things when he was a pup. Even though I wasn't new to dog ownership, I had never had a dog with his personality. All the same, we bonded and we were fine together. I retired and moved in with my cousin. He sort of adapted but required crating when strangers entered the home. He would try to nip, and in fact, nipped the housekeeper twice and my cousin once. This was a worry and concern for us both so I decided I needed to find quality training and contacted a national franchise. They assured me they could help me and we worked for several months at my home.



The trainer reiterated what the company posts on their web site as to the safety of these collars and demonstrated how painless they were by having me wear it on my wrist. When I brought up the negative press on the Internet I was told all of that was old information in reference to older shock collars and that the newer more modern versions were nothing like the older models. Furthermore, the company guaranteed results or your money back. Of course the short-term gains always appear as money well spent.

After approximately 11 months of using this collar just a few hours a day, he did respond to commands so long as the collar was worn but slowly seemed to build a resistance to it. When the collar was not worn he was smart enough to figure out he didn't have to listen to commands. His fear aggression worsened. One day he had enough and raged against me. I've never seen anything like it. It was time for potty break in our large fenced yard - I put his collar on and we went downstairs. I opened the door for him but he wouldn't go out. The collar was on a very low setting which I used with a Disneyland voice asking him to come. No response just a dead stare. I decided he didn't need to go, closed the door and started to head back upstairs. Typically he would follow. This time he attacked - like a police dog. Growling deep, trying to shake me, and coming back with more vengeance each time I was able to shake him off. Finally when he sunk his teeth deepest into my calf I dialled up the remote and gave the command "off". He hesitated briefly and continued. After opening the back door and getting outside (he's still attached and biting) I picked up a square piece of wood and placed it between my leg and his snout (gently) this startled him enough to stop long enough for me to get inside the house. Then it was like a switch flipped and he had no memory of the event and he just wanted in. I had seven puncture wounds and three large areas of immediate bruising. I couldn't let him back in. He had never done anything like this before. I had no other resources available to me than to call a shelter to pick him up for evaluation.

After two days of observation I was informed that none of the experienced handlers could work with him without a pole. Not one. I was advised that he was a vicious and dangerous dog who was suffering and that euthanasia was the most humane answer. Once the shelter realized he was wearing an electronic collar I received a stern lecture about how they were not condoned by them. I did pass that info on to the trainer before she blocked me on messenger. She had no response. Another customer posted her dissatisfaction about the training franchise on their Facebook page but it was removed.

Before making the decision to euthanize I spoke to a trainer I wish I had known about earlier. He's a no harm trainer who has trained dogs for movies and rehabilitated younger dogs harmed by these collars. He could have easily taken my money in an attempt to salvage Wolf. Instead he told me the truth that given his age and the severity of damage (given the incident and shelter report) that there was zero hope of rehabilitation. I'm not worried about how others may judge me. No one can add one ounce to the suffering I'm dealing with over this. All that matters is that awareness is raised and if even one dog is spared destruction by the telling of my story then somehow the pain will be worth it.



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The experience of this grieving dog owner is not a 'blue moon' event. This happens more than people know. An impressive website reflects the web designers skills, not the trainer's. Claims and testimonials may not be worth the ink they're written with. It's often the case, the more impressive the claims the bigger the red flags. When words and phrases such as: '100% satisfaction guaranteed', '99% success rate', 'we fix any dog regardless of breed, age or size', 'world class elite dog trainers' are bantered about hold your dog tight. And when they bring up how they have experience training military and police dogs and can train your dog to be as obedient, grab your dog, and run like hell.

The Ban Shock Collar Team