

## **Our Response to the Minister's response to petition 411-3920 presented by Kennedy Stewart, May 27, 2013**

Once again, Minister of Agriculture Gerry Ritz has responded to MP Kennedy Stewart's latest presentation of the 'ban shock collar' petition to Parliament. And once again, the Minister has bypassed the issue our petition raises choosing instead to focus on electric prods used on farm animals. Why would he focus on electric prods on farm animals when our petition clearly addresses the use of electric shock collars on the pet population? It may well be he wants to marry the two issues, since on its own, there is no reasonable rationale to defend electric shock collar use on pets.

696 million food animals are slaughtered each year in Canada and prods are used during their lifetime and to enable their slaughter. The Minister's claims that the Government of Canada '*recognizes*' electric shock devices (prods) must be used sparingly on these animals yet it is a well known fact that animals are regularly over prodded.

The Minister goes on to state the Government of Canada *recognizes* that electric devices must be restricted to only the power output that is absolutely necessary and never used on calves. Further, cattle prods are to be used only in extreme cases when animals or humans are at risk. The fact there is no process in place to realistically enforce these recommendations exposes how feign and benign this legislation's remains. Moral responsibility appears to be absent. However, electric prod use on food and farm animals is not the issue we address with our petition.

The intent of our petition is to expose and stop the unnecessary pain and suffering caused by the sale and use of electric shock collars to train pets. Therefore we are re-writing the petition for the third time so that this issue will finally be addressed and rectified. The federal cruelty laws state anyone commits an offence who "wilfully causes unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal or a bird." Shock collars fall into this definition. Our hope is the Minister recognizes this and recommends banning their use.

The website, [banshockcollars.ca](http://banshockcollars.ca), offers evidence that clearly demonstrates electric shocks are a cruel, inhumane and needless way to train sentient beings. Electrically shocking sentient beings is a recognized form of torture worldwide that has no place in animal training. Scientific studies, surveys, articles and policy statements from world's renowned animal experts and organizations unequivocally denounce the use of shock to train animals.

The Ban Shock Collar Team

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