



Electric fences, Don't Even Think About It

Repeatedly, people selling electric fences leave their customers full of misleading information, and their pets in danger. Protection & safe are words used in the shock collar industry to describe products that research and animal behaviourists affirm can cause grave physical and psychological harm. The suggestion that an electronic fence offers a “stress-free environment” belies the fact that the shocks delivered by the collars are not just a tap or tingle, they are painful and scary. *Shocked cats and dogs are stressed cats and dogs.*

Electric shocks, even one, can induce confusion, anxiety, fear and panic. Pain tolerance is different for every individual depending on the temperament, fur thickness, age, and health. Those with a low pain threshold, or a history of abuse, are appreciably more anxious and sensitive. Cats are vulnerable to the pain of shocks because of their thin skin and delicate necks. Pets need to know where they can wander without being hurt, and that involves perimeter training and setting shock intensity levels. These collars typically have many levels, and setting intensity is determined via a crude system of trial & error. The power of the shock is raised until the dog reacts. NO-ONE, not even an animal behaviourist, can accurately determine how much pain an animal is feeling, and certainly not a fence salesman. No matter what they claim.



Invisible Fence collar burns - photo shared by DITR vet tech student in Spokane. Device malfunctioned. This dog was suffering for days before his owners noticed.
Photo and text credit: www.diamondintheruff.com

Animals often link the shocks they receive with whatever, or whomever, they're focused on at the moment of the shock. This results in misplaced fears and phobias that bring further behavioural issues. Studies show even passive dogs are more predisposed to aggression after exposure to shocks. Adding to the many risks is the high potential of purchasing a poor quality collar that is defective, malfunctions and causes [severe burns & infection](#).

Another well-documented problem with invisible fences is that a motivated cat or dog can run through an electrified boundary line and escape. Left to wander, they are lost, stolen, picked up by animal control or spend the day dodging traffic. The opposing dilemma is unwelcome guests, thieves, badly behaved children, and aggressive animals can enter an electrified yard unhindered to tease, torment or steal a pet. Electric shocks are an uncivilized way to control animals. If shock collars were truly humane and kept the wearer safe, people would equip every child with one. Extensive studies, [prominent animal behaviourists](#), The Kennel Club UK, SPCA's, Humane Societies, along with renowned animal organizations, agree shock fences are not humane, safe, or reliable. Your pets deserve better. Please build a fence. - BSCC

References

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