

They Knew All Along — BSCC

We all are fragile, vulnerable, and flawed. We all make mistakes. Who among us has not uttered the words "What was I thinking" or "How could I not have known this?" Those who were misled, or were unaware of the facts, are not who we write about here. The shock manufacturers and aversive trainers, despite their awareness of the harm shock causes, continue to brazenly and without qualms, promote and profit from the sale of shock, prong, and choke collars. They flood the pet industry with false claims. Some of these claims are that these collars are not painful or anxiety inducing; they are the only way to train tough dogs; they are safe and humane to use on puppies and miniature breeds. Shameful irresponsible rhetoric.

History leaves little doubt that the morally compromised can sell any con when they are driven

enough. The "big lie" works as well today as it did in centuries past. The worst among us tell lies, so big, and so often they are believed. Sometimes those spreading the lies have been duped as well. Whether it is politics or dog training, it is how good people fall prey to the deception of others.

Shock promoters sell the premise that shocking dogs is for the dog's own good. And even claim this is how they save dogs from being euthanized. Some claim they only have to shock a dog a few times, and then just showing the dog the shock collar makes them instantly submit. Which in their minds proves shock training works. The truly convinced even tell us their dogs love their shock collars. A claim only possible because dogs can't dispute their nonsense. It is beyond

imagination anyone would want to be taught and controlled by electric shocks.

Animal experts, common sense, empathy and science all concur that shock collars are a harmful and cruel way to teach an animal. So, why are shock collars still legal? We know the harm they cause is not a secret. The unequivocal evidence has made clear for decades that these unregulated and frequently unreliable collars are prone to being used cruelly, both intentionally and unintentionally. Complaints received and confirmed by the US FDA's testing in 1987 concluded that anti-bark shock collars were "a danger to the health of an animal." Yet, the US FDA never banned them. In fact, they withdrew the policy guide statement on February 20, 2020, without apparent reason (see documents below).

To understand how raw and real the suffering is for animals subjected to electric shocks, visit the Ban Shock Collars website. These inhumane devices should never have seen the light of day, and it's a moral outrage that they still do.

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COMPLIANCE POLICY GUIDE (CPG)

CPG Sec. 655.300 Barking Dog Collar

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BACKGROUND:

A veterinary device which has been the subject of regulatory attention is a dog collar which is activated by barking resulting in an electric shock to the dog which supposedly trains him to stop barking. *CVM* believes the collars fall under the definition of a device since they are intended to affect barking, which is a natural dog function. Complaints received, which were later corroborated by our own testing, included severe burns in the collar area and possible personality adjustment injuries to the dogs. The shocking mechanism was found to be activated not only by barking but by vehicle horns, slamming doors or any other loud noise. *CVM* concurred in regulatory action against the device since it was deemed to be dangerous to the health of the animal.

POLICY:

Dog collars which are activated by the noise of barking to produce an electric shock are considered as hazardous to the health of the animal.

Material between asterisks is new or revised

Issued: 10/1/80 Revised: 6/2/87

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Questions?

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COMPLIANCE POLICY GUIDE (CPG)

CPG Sec. 655.300 Barking Dog Collar (Withdrawn 2/20/2020)

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Issued by: Center for Veterinary Medicine

Office of the Commissioner,Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs,Office of Global Policy and Strategy

Compliance Policy Guide Sec. 655.300 was withdrawn February 20, 2020.

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