



INFORMATION ON ELECTRIC SHOCK COLLARS, PRONG COLLARS, PINCH COLLARS, CHOKE CHAIN COLLARS, HALF CHECK COLLARS AND MARTINGALE COLLARS.

## ELECTRIC SHOCK COLLARS

At Action Petz we do not allow the use of electric collars. **If your dog wears an electric collar, you are required to remove it and replace it with a regular collar or harness that can hold your dog's ID tag before entering our premises.**

Under the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010, the use of electronic collars or of any collar capable of administering a shock in cats and dogs is banned in Wales. It is prohibited for a person to:

- attach an electronic collar to a cat or a dog;
- cause an electronic collar to be attached to a cat or a dog; or
- be responsible for a cat or a dog to which an electronic collar is attached.
- Prong and pinch collars, as well as choke chains are not acceptable as they can cause pain suffering and/or injury.
- Electric shock collars, or any other device capable of producing a shock to a dog are not allowed in any of the Action Petz premises.



## PRONG/PINCH COLLARS

At Action Petz we do not allow the use of prong and pinch collars in our centres as it compromises dogs' welfare. **If your dog wears a prong /pinch collar, you are to remove it and replace it with a regular collar or harness that can hold your dog's ID tag before entering our premises.**

Pinch and prong collars are based on the principle of applying something painful or frightening to stop an undesirable behaviour - very simply, when a dog pulls on the required lead, the prongs of the collar close around the neck which can cause pain or discomfort which reduces the chance of





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the dog pulling on the lead again. Research has shown that aversive training techniques, like pinch collars, can cause pain and distress and can compromise dog welfare.

In modern society, there is absolutely no excuse or need to use techniques which can compromise dog welfare. There are much better and humane ways to train dogs. A well-fitting and comfortable harness can be an invaluable asset to help train a dog to walk on a lead alongside treats to reward the good behaviour all this without subjecting dogs to techniques which can cause pain or fear.

### Myths and facts about prong/pinch collars

**Myth: Dogs' skin is so thick they can't feel the pain.**

Fact: Skin on a human's neck is actually thicker (10-15 cells) than the skin on a dog's neck (3-5 cells). So, if you think wearing a prong collar would hurt, imagine how your dog feels.

**Myth: Nothing else works, and I can't control my dog any other way.**

Fact: If you're working with a skilled trainer who's using positive reinforcement, you can teach your dog to perform nearly any behaviour without the use of pain or fear.

**Myth: This breed is too tenacious/stubborn/strong to use anything gentler.**

Fact: All dogs are different, and breed only plays a small role in each individual dog's personality and behaviour. Socialization and training have more of an influence than breed on behaviour. Try positive training!

**Myth: My dog doesn't mind it.**

Fact: How do you know? Does your dog speak English? Are you skilled in reading dog body language? Do you know the difference between a dog who is suppressing normal behaviours, avoiding pain, and shut down, versus one who is happy, engaged, and confident? There's a good chance that your dog does mind it, but has learned to live with it to avoid more punishment.

**Myth: My trainer told me it's helpful and useful.**

Fact: Unfortunately, many trainers are still using out-of-date, non-evidence-based training methods, which end up doing more harm than good. We recommend that you follow the advice of reputable dog welfare groups and look for a credentialed trainer that has passed a reliable, validated assessment of his or her skills. No trainer should need to resort to pain and fear.

**Myth: My dog's prong collar has little plastic protectors so it doesn't hurt as much.**

Fact: Even if it doesn't hurt as much, it's still painful and uncomfortable, and ultimately unnecessary.

**Myth: My dog doesn't care about treats.**

Fact: That's probably not true: we bet you're just not using high-value enough treats! We promise there's something every dog will like – you just have to try things out to find what motivates your dog. Baby food? Tripe? Meatballs? String cheese? Or, some dogs will work for a ball or a game of tug!



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**Myth: A prong collar isn't inhumane if it fits right.**

**Fact:** Sadly, this is a false statement that's been perpetuated by aversive trainers. Even properly fitted prong collars dig into the sensitive skin around the neck, risking severe damage to the thyroid, oesophagus, and trachea.

**Myth: I saw immediate results.**

**Fact:** You will see immediate "results" when you put a pain collar on your dog, because it hurts when they pull. However, by using this collar, you aren't actually training your dog to do anything. He is just learning to avoid pain. As soon as you take it off, he'll go back to his previous behaviours. Actually, training him will have much more wide-reaching and long-lasting effects

**Myth: I felt the shock/pinch and it's not that bad.**

**Fact:** Did you feel it over and over and over again, for hours on end? Did you feel it on your neck? Did you feel it when you weren't expecting it? How about when you were already scared or stressed? And even if it's not that bad to you, how can you know how it feels to him?

**Myth: At least prong collars are more humane than choke collars.**

**Fact:** If you can see that a choke collar is inhumane, why would you want to use another inhumane tool, such as a prong, that hurts your dog?

*Source: ASPCA.*



**Damage caused by prong/pinch collars**



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## CHOKE CHAIN COLLARS

At Action Petz we do not allow the use of choke chain collars in our centres as it compromises dogs' welfare. **If your dog wears a choke chain, you are required to remove it and replace it with a regular collar or harness that can hold your dog's ID tag before entering our premises.**

We firmly believe that no dog should be subjected to being choked as a quick fix for an unwanted behaviour, when there are proven, force-free methods to successfully train a dog.

The use of choke collars can inflict not just immediate pain and fear on dogs, but can also:

- exacerbate behaviour problems (such as pulling or jumping),
- injured ocular blood vessels,
- cause tracheal and oesophageal damage,
- cause severely sprained necks,
- make your dog faint,
- cause transient foreleg paralysis,
- cause laryngeal nerve paralysis, and
- cause hind leg ataxia.

*Source: Association of Pet Dog Trainers UK (APDT UK).*





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## HALF CHECK AND MARTINGALE COLLARS

Although not banned, both half check and martingale collars cannot be worn at our facilities as they pose a risk for your and other dogs to get caught mid-play. We have experienced cases of dogs' nails being ripped by half check collars and martingale collars in the past due to the fact they dangle when loose, and because of this, we have decided these cannot be worn while your dog is playing at the centre and at dog day care. **If your dog wears either a half-check or martingale collar, you are required to remove it and replace it with a regular collar or harness that can hold your dog's ID tag.**

