



The Gundog Club

The Gundog Club
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Response to consultation on A ban on electronic training collars for cats and dogs in England

About the Gundog Club

The Gundog Club including the Graded Training Scheme and the Affiliate Instructor Scheme, is now owned and managed by national gundog welfare charity The Gundog Trust.

The Gundog Trust is committed to the following aims:

- To promote, support and develop gundog training opportunities
- To encourage community participation in gundog training and fieldwork
- To promote the humane treatment and welfare of gundog breeds.

The Gundog Club has always prohibited harsh handling of dogs in its training schemes, and has recently announced¹ that from September 2018, the Gundog Club will only accredit force free trainers.

This means that Gundog Club will work towards an objective of encouraging as many people as possible into gundog training via a force free path.

Against the use of e-collars

In the UK the number of gundogs trained to a high standard without the use of e-collars (or shock collars) demonstrates that these devices are unnecessary in training dogs for fieldwork.

The Gundog Club supports a complete ban in the UK on the use of e-collars to train dogs. While we acknowledge that a ban may not prevent their use completely, it

¹ More about this announcement can be found here:
<http://www.thegundogclub.co.uk/?p=3001>



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would send a strong message that their use as a tool in dog training is unacceptable, and this is a particularly important message for people new to gundog training and dog training in general.

Ten years ago many people still questioned whether or not force-free dog training was even possible. Today there are force-free trained dogs competing at the highest level in most dog sports and disciplines. It is time for gundog training to follow suit, and shift away from all aversive based training.

We have no particular knowledge about the use of e-collars for containment, but have reviewed Defra's 2014 report on the welfare implications of e-collars, and believe the welfare implications for containment would be as concerning as their use for training.

We fully support Defra's proposal that it should be an offence to use an e-collar, or even to put one on a dog, or be in charge of a dog that is wearing one.

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