

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th September 2023

Dear Constituent,

RE: E-COLLARS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns about electronic collars (e-collars). I have read your comments with interest.

I can appreciate the strength of your feeling on this issue, and I am grateful to you for setting out your views in detail. In response, I want to lay out the Government's position on the points raised, which I hope will be of interest to you.

The UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and my ministerial colleagues and I are committed to raising these standards even higher.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has considered the evidence regarding the use of electronic aids to control dogs. Indeed, I am aware that research commissioned by DEFRA showed that many e-collar users were not using them properly, or in compliance with the manufacturers' instructions. As well as being misused to inflict unnecessary harm, there is also concern that e-collars can redirect aggression or generate anxiety-based behaviour in pets, making underlying behavioural and health problems worse. In addition, the Government's consultation on this received more than 7,000 responses.

Following this research, as well as engagement with trainers, behaviourists, e-collar manufacturers, the animal welfare sector, veterinary and dog keeping organisations, the Government will ban training collars in England that can deliver an electric shock to a cat or dog by a hand-held remote-controlled device.

I understand that this ban will not extend to collars which use alternative stimuli, such as noise, spray or vibration. Invisible fencing systems which help animals quickly learn to stay within a boundary and have welfare benefits, such as keeping pets away from roads, will also still be permitted.

The Government remains committed to introducing this ban. Regarding legislative timetabling, I know that parliamentary business will be scheduled and announced in the usual way. However, I can advise that these new regulations will come into force on the 1st February 2024.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE