

# Fact Sheet 1 – Anti-bark and Remote Training Collars

## Legal requirements for the use of electronic collars

### Introduction

An electronic collar is an animal collar that is designed to be capable of imparting an electric shock to an animal.

People using electronic collars must comply with legal requirements under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008.

This fact sheet outlines the legal requirements relating to two types of electronic collars – ‘anti-bark collars’, and ‘remote training collars’ for dogs.

Legal requirements relating to the use of electronic ‘containment collars’ (worn by cats or dogs as part of a containment system) are covered in a separate fact sheet.

### General legal requirements relating to the use of electronic collars

You must not use an electronic collar on an animal that is not a dog or cat.

You must only use authorised electronic collars on dogs and cats. In relation to dogs, authorised electronic collars mean a ‘remote training collar’, an ‘anti-bark collar’, or a ‘containment collar. In relation to cats, authorised electronic collars mean a ‘containment collar’.

You must not use an authorised electronic collar unless:

- A veterinary practitioner has examined the physical health and temperament of the dog or cat and reasonably believes that the dog or cat is suitable to have an authorised electronic collar used on it; and
- The dog or cat is over 6 months of age; and
- A collar is not left on the dog or cat for more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period; and
- The use is in accordance with any instructions for use of the collar provided by the manufacturer; and
- The dog or cat is introduced to the use of the collar in accordance with a training program that complies with a code of practice made under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (if any); and
- The collar complies with the following specifications<sup>1</sup>: a) the power of the collar must not exceed either 15 milliamps root mean square or 100 milliamps single pulse with a maximum of 3 milliamps per second; and b) the length of the stimulation period must be limited by an automatic safety cut-out; and c) the collar must provide for variable levels of static stimulation; and
- The collar contacts have safe, rounded points<sup>1</sup>; and
- The distance between the collar contact points does not exceed 60 millimetres<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> If the collar meets the Electronic Collar Manufacturers Association (ECMA) standards, you can presume it meets these requirements.

## Specific legal requirements relating to anti bark and remote training collars for dogs

An anti-bark collar means an electric collar designed to modify barking behaviour in dogs, and that is activated by a dog's bark.

A remote training collar means an electric collar that is designed to be worn by an animal to assist in modification of the animal's behaviour, and that is activated by a person through a transmitter.

You must not put a remote training collar or anti-bark collar on a dog unless you are:

- A veterinary practitioner or a qualified dog trainer; or
- Acting under the supervision and written instructions of a veterinary practitioner or a qualified dog trainer.

If you are acting under the supervision and written instructions of a veterinary practitioner or a qualified dog trainer, they must review the use of the collar:

- Within 6 months of the initial physical health and temperament assessment of the dog (i.e. the assessment that was done to confirm the suitability of using an electronic collar on the animal)
- At least every 12 months after the first review.

Note that 'qualified dog trainer' is defined as "a person who meets the requirements of regulation 49(2) of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Regulations 2005".

## For more information

Contact the Department of Primary Industries Customer Service Centre on ph 136 186, or visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/animalwelfare)

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