

**From:** Jake [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 1:42 PM

**To:** Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor) <michaelangelo.torres@sfdph.org>

**Cc:** ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; DorseyStaff (BOS) <DorseyStaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>

**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Electronic Collar Ban

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Hello,

**I am writing to you to voice my opposition against the proposed electronic collar ban in San Francisco. I am a current resident and dog owner living in District 8.**

I adopted a large rescue dog about two years ago, who was reactive to other dogs. I've worked with various trainers over the past two years, both "force free" and "balanced".

My original "force free" trainer, who is recommended by the SF SPCA on their website, recommended the use of a "head halter" or "gentle leader" (The Gentle Leader is a head collar which works like a horse halter, moving the point of leverage from the neck of the dog to the head.). I witnessed my dog being put into dangerous situations wearing this head halter, and she developed facial irritations and rubbed the skin raw on her face from wearing it. I ask how this is considered "force free" and supported by "purely positive" organizations?

Ironically, it was the first "balanced" trainer that I worked with, after being dissatisfied with the way my dog was treated by the previous "force free" trainer, that took a step back to evaluate my dogs behavioral responses and truly focus on relationship building and engagement with me and my dog. The trainer did not recommend any tools, but rather showed me the benefit of hand-feeding, toys, etc.

For more than the first year of ownership, I utilized harnesses, long-lines, etc. to safely give my dog room to exercise while working on engagement and commands outside.

It was only after my dog was comfortable in a variety of environments that I worked with a reputable trainer to introduce my dog to an electronic collar. I commonly run / hike in environments where wildlife can be present, and allowing my dog to live a safe but fulfilling life is extremely important to me. I believe dog owners should have a choice in how they keep their pet safe, especially in the Bay Area where we have a unique mix of urban and rural environments.

**I encourage the commission to focus on ways we can enforce safety laws that we already have in place. Leash laws are regularly not followed in all areas of the city, and the nuisance of off-leash dogs (or dogs on 20+ foot "flexi" leashes) is a public safety threat to all residents, irrespective of whether or not they own a dog.**

Thank you,  
John [REDACTED]

**From:** Olivia [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 6:17 PM

**Subject:** Re: Fw: Letter Re: Proposed Legislation Banning the Use and Sale of Dog Training Shock Collars in San Francisco

Hi Board if Supervisors,

I am a San Francisco Resident, and I sent a letter via email back in November to express my concern about this proposed legislation. I strongly oppose this legislation. I understand discussions are still taking place to consider it, and I'd really ask you consider opposing this. My husband and I have had the benefit of working with a dog trainer and an e collar to help with recall for our French Bulldog who is now two and a half. He is super healthy and happy, and most importantly SAFE. Without the ability to use tools like this I fear he would've never learned these behaviors that keep him away from dangers. Thank you for taking the time to hear my perspective.

Sincerely,

Olivia [REDACTED]