

Working Dogs For Vets

Position Statement: Electronic Collars and the Humane Use



Working Dogs For Vets (W.D.F.V.) recognizes that there are many disciplines in the world of dog training. WDFV does not limit its certificate profile to one type of dog trainer or one type of training discipline. With that understanding, WDFV does not forbid the use of electronic collars that are used correctly. WDFV believes that the administration of an electric stimulus during training should only be used after all other training options have been considered and rejected. A WDFV certificate should never authorize or employ the use of electric stimulation as an initial training option. We strongly believe that the use of an electronic collar should be the last form of training considered before its use.

A WDFV certificate is expected to exhaust all other training strategies before considering the use of an electronic collar. WDFV certificate should attempt or carefully rule out the following training strategies prior to the use of electrical stimulation:

- Changes in antecedent stimuli
- Positive reinforcement of alternative behaviors
- A comprehensive program of counterconditioning and desensitization of Negative punishment
- Negative reinforcement
- Consultations with other behavior professionals for alternative training suggestions

In the event that a WDFV certificate determines that an electronic collar is the appropriate course of action for a particular dog, that trainer should never apply more than one electronic stimulation to a dog at the same time.

Furthermore, the electronic stimulation should never be administered to any location other than the neck of the dog.

A WDFV certificate who violates these directives in this position statement risks losing his or her certification. A certificate who loses his or her certification as a result of violating the directives in this position statement will have his or her name published on our website with the reason for the decertification.