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From: lissa.scott [lissa.scott@verizon.net]
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To: 'ExtMAGDRL@yahoo.com'
Subject: DOE Topic #39: Electronic Training Devices

Hi All,

Sharing some interesting research on canine behavior from the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) as Dog Owner Education Topic #39. IAABC posted an updated study on the effects of electronic training devices including fencing and shock collars. The review is at the link below and it's a long read, but I've included some highlights below to pique your interest:

http://www.iaabc.org/articles/Ecollar_IAABCJournal_Spring2007.pdf
Electronic Training Devices: A Review of Current Literature

Page 6: This study indicates that the general use of electronic shock collars is not consistent with animal welfare. It has to be assumed that pet owners do not have the sufficient training and skill to avoid the risk that dogs will show severe and persistent stress symptoms.

Page 8: The authors concluded that shock-collar training is stressful; receiving shocks is a painful experience to dogs; and the shock study group of dogs evidently learned that the presence of their owner (or his commands) announced the reception of shocks, even outside of the normal training context. They suggest that the welfare of these shocked dogs is at stake, at least in the presence of their owners.

Page 11 (on punitive versus positive training approaches): The results show that in four specific areas: house-training, the recall, stealing, and sit, there was no significant difference in the level of obedience obtained (shown by percentage of proper behavior shown) among the methods used to train. However, for the rest of the tasks, the training method that used rewards only achieved a significantly higher rate of obedience than other methods. Similarly, using rewards only greatly reduced the incidence of problematic behaviors, including aggression toward people and other dogs, fear, repetitive behaviors, overexcitement, anxiety, and separation issues.

And for those who find themselves answering questions about MAGDRL's electronic containment system policy, there is a second good article that lists reasons they cause problems.

See: http://www.iaabc.org/articles/ECS_Systems.pdf
What Do You Say When Your Clients Want Electronic Containment Systems?
(See page 2 for drawbacks to ECS)

As always, thanks for educating yourselves to benefit dogs and their owners!

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Gastropexy info: <http://www.lissa.net/Joya/Lapro-Pexy.htm>

"A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." - Josh Billings

