

BVA and BSAVA policy position on the use of aversive training devices in dogs and cats

Executive summary

BVA and BSAVA support and recommend positive training methods as the most effective training intervention for companion animals in terms of health, welfare and behavioural outcomes.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13}

¹ NJ Rooney, S Cowan, 2011. [Training methods and owner–dog interactions: Links with dog behaviour and learning ability](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2011.03.007). Applied Animal Behaviour Science. Volume 132, Issues 3–4 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2011.03.007>

² Arhant, C. et al., 2010. [Behaviour of smaller and larger dogs: Effects of training methods, inconsistency of owner behaviour and level of engagement in activities with the dog](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2010.01.003) Applied Animal Behaviour Science Volume 123, Issues 3–4 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2010.01.003>

³ Herron, ME., Shofer FS., Reisner IR., 2009. [Survey of the use and outcome of confrontational and non-confrontational training methods in client-owned dogs showing undesired behaviors](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2008.12.011) Applied Animal Behaviour Science, Volume 117, Issues 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.applanim.2008.12.011>

⁴ Blackwell, E.J., Twells, C., Seawright, A., 2009. [The relationship between training methods and the occurrence of behavior problems, as reported by owners, in a population of domestic dogs](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2007.10.008) Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research, Volume 3, Issue 5 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2007.10.008>

⁵ Deldalle, S., Gaunet, F., 2014. [Effects of 2 training methods on stress-related behaviors of the dog \(Canis familiaris\) and on the dog–owner relationship](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2007.10.008). Journal of Veterinary Behavior: Clinical Applications and Research Volume 3, Issue 5. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jveb.2007.10.008>

⁶ Cooper, J. J. et al., 2014. The welfare consequences and efficacy of training pet dogs with remote electronic training collars in comparison to reward based training. PLoS ONE, 9(9), p.e102722. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4153538/>

⁷ Dale, Podlesnik & Elliffe, 2017. Evaluation of an aversion-based program designed to reduce predation of native birds by dogs: An analysis of training records for 1156 dogs. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, 191, pp.59–66. Available at: <https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/2292/23641/whole.pdf?sequence=2>

⁸ Guilherme Fernandes, Olsson & Vieira de Castro, 2017. Do aversive-based training methods actually compromise dog welfare?: A literature review. Applied Animal Behaviour Science, 196(C), pp.1–12.

⁹ Masson et al., 2018. Electronic training devices: Discussion on the pros and cons of their use in dogs as a basis for the position statement of the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Ethology. Journal of Veterinary Behavior, 25, pp.71–75. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1550.122viii0>

Under the UK Animal Welfare Acts^{14,15,16} humans responsible for animals must ensure that the animals under their care are protected from unnecessary pain, suffering, injury and disease. This