

Shock, Prong, Choke & Indeed Any Collar Can Cause Injury To Your Dog

When you jerk, snap, yank or pull your dog you most likely have no idea just how much force you are exerting, trauma that is adversely affecting your dog's health and well-being. Just like us, everything is connected and damage to the neck leads to problems in the back, limbs, head, eyes and organs. Studies and research on collar damage leave no doubt that the majority of dogs equipped with collars will sustain some form of injury. Not only physical injury but psychological damage as well. Aggressive behaviours in dogs can be a result of the pain they are experiencing. Repeated 'corrections' can lead to further behavioural issues. Dogs jerked or shocked by collars and then crated are even more stressed as restricted movement leads to more pain, muscular tension and even aggression. Do not dismiss it when a dog resists being crated. Never force a dog.



Some people claim it is the misuse and overuse of the various collars that cause injuries but that argument ignores the fact that shock, choke and prong collars are intended to cause discomfort and pain. Their appearance and names say it all. This is the methodology behind how they work. Even small tugs and lower intensity shocks can cause significant trauma. Research shows it's not if there will be damage but how much damage will occur. Your dog will likely sustain an injury whether visible to you or not. It's almost guaranteed. Sadly, pet owners are rarely warned of the dangers when they purchase these devices.

Chiropractic studies (Hallgren/Sweden) have found as many as 91% of dogs with spinal injuries had histories of being pulled and jerked on leads. If you tug and yank on a choke, prong or even a flat collar or shorten the leash to the point it is applying constant pressure on the dog's neck this will inevitably produce some form of sprain, bruising or much worse. Injuries are often extreme and can even be fatal yet many of the tell tale signs are ignored, missed or dismissed as minor by owners and trainers. Many of the damaging effects of shocks are invisible.

Potential effects of harsh collar handling:

- Difficulty holding head erect
- Front or hind leg paralysis, limping or hopping
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing
- Fainting / collapse
- Swollen or protruding eyes
- Excessive panting or drooling
- Whining / yelping
- Urine dribbling / leaking
- Reluctance to move
- Limited or stiff neck and head movement
- Aggression, agitation
- Voice Hoarseness
- Withdrawn / Shut down
- Injured ocular vessels
- Collapsed Tracheal and Laryngeal nerve paralysis
- Esophageal damage
- Sprained or crushed neck bones
- Whiplash
- Nerve damage
- Anxiety, stress & trauma
- Misalignment of the cervical vertebrae
- Depression / Phobias
- Compromised Immune System
- Thyroid damage
- Tissue damage
- Infection
- Undermined trust & bonding

Older or medically compromised dogs are even more vulnerable. Most Vets, Behaviourists and Professional trainers who support humane training methods recommend that a well fitted harness be

used, instead of collars, to safely manage dogs. Remember, there is a living being at the other end of that leash with many of the same feelings, emotions and nerve endings as you have. It is recommended you use a flat collar only for decoration and to hang identification tags.



Photo credit: Raise Awareness Across the Globe: Injury caused by a prong collar.

Note: As the illustration above portrays this device is as draconian and cruel as it looks. Those who understand its offensive appearance and purpose can now buy or deliberately camouflage their prong collars with covers to make them appear like normal flat collars. This undertaking implies knowledge and perhaps shame for using such a barbaric device.

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