

# Choke, Prong, Shock & Indeed Any Collar Increases Significantly The Risk Of Injury To Your Dog

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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 behaviors in dogs can be a result of the pain they are experiencing. After all, chronic back or neck pain makes us cranky too. The constant 'corrections' can lead to further behavioral

issues. Dogs jerked and 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 your dog.

Some people claim it is the misuse or overuse of the various collars that cause injuries but that argument ignores the fact that choke and prong collars as well as shock collars are intended to cause discomfort and pain. Their appearance and names say it all. That is the methodology behind how they work. Even small tugs and lower intensity shocks with these collars 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 is almost guaranteed. Sadly, pet owners are not warned of the dangers when they purchase these devices.

Chiropractic studies (Hallgren/Sweden) have found as many as 91% of dogs in the study 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 documented from yanks and jerks 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. Some of the damaging effects of shocks are invisible.

Here are some symptoms & injuries documented in research as directly resulting from choking, jerking, shocking and other harsh collar handling. Older, fragile and sick dogs suffer even more.

## Symptoms

- Difficulty holding head erect
- Lowered body posture
- Front or hind leg paralysis, limping or hopping
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing
- Fainting; collapse
- Eyes swollen or protruding
- Excessive panting or drooling
- Whining /yelps
- Urine dribbling /leaking

## Damage

- Increased pressure in head and eyes; injured ocular vessels
- Collapsed Tracheal and Laryngeal nerve paralysis
- Esophageal damage
- Sprained or crushed neck bones
- Whiplash
- Nerve damage
- Tightened muscles

- Reluctance to move
- Limited or stiff neck and head movement
- Unwarranted aggression, crankiness
- Hoarse voice
- Withdrawn
- Anxiety & stress
- Misalignment of the cervical vertebrae
- Depression
- Compromised Immune System
- Thyroid damage
- Tissue damage & swelling
- Infection

Most Vets, Behaviourists and Professional trainers who support humane training methods recommend that a well fitted harness be used, instead of any collar, to safely control 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. We recommend you use a flat collar only for decoration and to hang identification tags.

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#### REFERENCES

["Back Problems In Dogs" - Anders Hallgren](http://www.banshockcollars.ca/Studies.Php) [Http://Www.Banshockcollars.Ca/Studies.Php](http://www.banshockcollars.ca/Studies.Php)

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[Severe Brain Damage After Punitive Training Technique With A Choke Chain Collar In A German Shepherd Dog](#) - Journal Of Veterinary Behavior - Clinical Applications And Research

[Joint Statement on Electronic Training Devices and Pinch Collars -- The Kennel Club; Dog Trust, Blue Cross, Wood Green Animal Charity A.P.D.T, ABTC The Mayhew Animal Home, RSPCA APBC, Battersea Dog & Cat Home - 2014](#)

[Choke, Prong And Shock Collars Can Cause Disease And Possibly Lead to Cancer](#) – Dr. Peter Dobias



Photo credit: Raise Awareness Across the Globe Severe injury from 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. An undertaking that implies knowledge and perhaps shame for using such a barbaric collar.