

September 30, 2009

The Honorable Janet Taylor
Mayor of Salem

Via e-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Taylor,

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our more than 2 million members and supporters, including thousands in the Salem area, to urge you to work to ban shock collars in the city of Salem.

As is shown by the recent case of the father who shocked his children with these cruel devices, shock collars are inherently cruel and cause severe suffering to any living being they are used on. In addition to causing physical pain and potential injury (ranging from burns to cardiac fibrillation), when used on the family dog or other animals, shock collars can terrify and lead to psychological problems, including severe anxiety and displaced aggression. The stress and confusion caused by repeated shocks have also been shown to lead to changes in the heart and respiration rate and even gastrointestinal distress.

No animal should live in fear of being shocked for normal behavior, such as speaking (barking). Positive training methods, in which rewards are given for what is done right, are kinder and more effective than punishments that induce pain and fear. Whereas shock collars can often lead to additional behavioral problems in dogs, humane obedience classes can be very effective in helping dogs learn what is expected of them. Humane obedience instructors denounce the use of shock collars.

Banning shock collars from Salem would set a positive example. Please contact me if I can answer any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tracy Reiman
Executive Vice President