Dear Rob

Today I am launching a consultation on ‘Potential controls or prohibition of electronic training aids in Scotland’ on 6 November. This consultation is seeking views on whether the Scottish Government should ban or regulate the use of electronic training collars for animals and, once live, can be accessed at https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/animal-welfare/electronic-training-aids.

The consultation covers the use of electronic training devices for cats and dogs. It includes remote control training collars, anti-bark collars and pet containment fences (also known as electric boundary or freedom fences) using either a static electric pulse, sound, vibration or water or other spray. This consultation does not cover the use of electric fences used for livestock and horses.

There are four options proposed in this consultation (different approaches may be appropriate for different types or uses of collars):

1. **Status quo** (Produce industry guidance for dog owners and trainers on the proper use of electronic training collars).

2. **Develop guidance or a statutory welfare code** (Produce a code of practice or animal welfare code under Sections 37 and 38 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006).

3. **Develop regulations on the use of electronic collars** (Introduce regulations or legislative controls under Sections 26 and 27 of the 2006 Act).

4. **Ban the use of electronic collars** (Introduce regulations to ban the use of electronic collars in Scotland under Section 26 of the 2006 Act).

Rùnaire a’ Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail, Biadh agus an Àrainneachd
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Ur faidhle/Your ref: 6 November 2015
Ar faidhle/Our ref:
Following the closing date on 29th January, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help reach a decision on whether there should be a prohibition on the use of any or all electronic training aids in Scotland, or Regulations put in place to control the use of these devices.

I hope that this information is helpful.

RICHARD LOCHHEAD