



Safety of Cat Collars

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Calver MC, Adams G, Clark W, et al. Assessing the safety of collars used to attach predation deterrent devices and ID tags to pet cats. Animal Welfare 2013;22:95-105.

Many pet cats are occasional or frequent hunters at some time in their lives. Collar-worn predation deterrents are sometimes used to curtail the predatory ability of cats; these include bells, electronic devices, and even brightly colored material ringing the collar. One drawback to the use of these deterrents is the perception that collars cause significant risk to cats through snagging on objects, or by catching their paws or teeth in the collar. This may reduce the use of ID collars. This study assessed the incidence of mishaps involving cat collars in an Australian suburban setting. The investigators defined collar incidents (snagging), collar injuries (requiring veterinary care) and collar death. They surveyed veterinarians as well as owners.

Their data indicated that collar-associated injuries or deaths are rare. Among veterinarians, they reported one incident in 2.3 years of practice. Owners reported only one collar injury and no deaths for the lifetime of their cats; however, 27% did experience collar incidents. In contrast, 22% reported cats needing treatment following road accidents, 53% reported cats needing treatment for fighting injuries, and 62% had owned cats killed on the road. Fighting and road hazards are far greater threats to the welfare of cats than ID collars. [MK]

See also: Lord LK, Griffin B, Slater MR, et al. Evaluation of collars and microchips for visual and permanent identification of pet cats. *J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2010;237:387-394.

Source: Winn Feline Foundation

Texas Senate Passes Ban on Gas Euthanasia

AUSTIN (KXAN) - The practice of putting dogs and cats to death using carbon monoxide would be outlawed under legislation unanimously approved Thursday by the Texas Senate. State Sen. Kirk Watson, the Austin Democrat who authored the measure, said pets and homeless animals deserve better. The Senate Bill has the support of several animal welfare groups, including the Texas Humane Legislation Network (THLN) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The measure now goes to the House for consideration.

The Misunderstood Dog

Excerpt from new book, [The Misunderstood Dog](#) by Jordan Rothman, CTC, CPDT-KA

It's important to understand the inner workings of dogs, including their abilities, limitations, and the way in which they navigate our human environment. Dogs are constantly communicating with us, and our ability to read what they're saying is key. For example, a couple of months ago, there was a video on the Internet of parents filming their child interacting with the family dog. During the interaction, the child was sitting on the dog, bouncing up and down, grabbing at the dog's ears and tail, etc. The parents found this very amusing and cute, as was clear by their laughter and the things they were saying. Meanwhile, the dog was showing so many signs of stress that were completely being missed (panting, turning his head away, lowered ears, tongue flicking, and so on). At least for the duration of the video, the dog luckily held it together (but desperately tried to communicate his discomfort). This could have gone very differently very quickly.

Having a grasp of at least the basics of body language is not just for the benefit of clear communication, but also for safety. The above situation should not happen ever. Another aspect is that the child's behavior could be reinforced if Mom and Dad are laughing and think it's cute. If the dog repeatedly learns that none of his signs of discomfort are working to stop the undesired human behavior, he may have to crank it up a notch. This won't be good for anybody and is highly preventable.

Since we choose to bring dogs into our homes, it's our responsibility to take the time to learn about and understand them. The more we learn, the more harmonious our relationships with them will be. In particular, in family situations with children, we have to be role models for how we interact with our dogs. It's essential to teach children how to behave around dogs, teach dogs how to behavior around children, as well as actively supervising and managing the environment.

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About the Author

Jordan Rothman, CTC, CPDT-KA, author, *The Misunderstood Dog* Jordan Rothman graduated with honors from the San Francisco SPCA Academy for Dog Trainers, earning a certification in Training and Counseling (CTC) credential. He studied with Jean Donaldson (*Dogs are from Neptune, Culture Clash, Fight!, Mine!, and Oh Behave!*) and Janis Bradley (*Dogs Bite*). Jordan is also certified through the Certification Council for Pet Dog Trainers (CCPDT). He has completed advanced work in animal behavior, including learning theory, behavior problems, teaching techniques, and puppy development. He is also a professional member of APDT, the Association of Pet Dog Trainers. In addition, Jordan continues to learn about dogs through experience, working with other professionals, and continuing education. As the owner of Keen Canines LLC, he uses modern, science-based methods to help dog owners prevent and solve problems with man's best friend. Jordan has two Boston Terriers, Lucie and Sophie, both with PhDs in snoring. His background in science includes a B.S. in mechanical engineering with a focus in 3-D Design/Analysis and Manufacturing. When not working with and learning about dogs, Jordan custom-builds tennis racquets for players of all levels as well as providing customization services for professional players. Those same analytical and problem solving skills come in handy when working with dogs and their people.

NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine Open House

The 2013 Open House, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 27, will explore the One Health concept with special exhibits and discussions on the connection between animals, the environment, and people. The popular annual event also will offer the traditional opportunities to get up close with various animals large and small, special canine demonstrations and displays, and chances to talk with faculty and students.

Veterinary Health Complex

Terry Center. The Open House is an opportunity to tour portions of the 110,000-square-foot Randall B. Terry, Jr. Companion Animal Veterinary Medical Center, one of the most advanced veterinary hospitals in the nation.

Veterinary Health and Wellness Center. Exhibits including Nutrition, Rehabilitation and Mobility Service, Behavior Medicine, Small Animal Blood Bank, and Exotic Animal Medicine.

Equine and Farm Animal Veterinary Center. The breezeway in the Equine and Large Animal Veterinary Center will include exhibits and farm animals.

There is no charge for the Open House or for parking on the Centennial Biomedical Campus. More information at website: <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/news/openhouse/>

OK Governor Signs Horse Processing Bill

March 29, 2013. Since 1963, horse slaughter for human consumption has been forbidden by Oklahoma state statute. Horse processing has not taken place anywhere in the United States since 2007 when a combination of legislation and court decisions shuttered the last remaining horse processing plants. Horse processing in the United States again became possible in 2012 when Congress passed legislation that did not specifically deny the USDA funding to carry out inspections at domestic horses processing plants. Since then, plant developments have been proposed in several states, but no U.S. horse processing plants are currently operating.

Earlier this year, Oklahoma State Rep. Skye McNeil introduced HB 1999, a bill to allow horse slaughter for human consumption in Oklahoma, but which prohibits the sale of horsemeat in Oklahoma.

According to the Oklahoman's News OK.com, more opponents to the measure contacted the governor's office than supporters but the opposition was overwhelmingly from out of state. The Oklahoma Farm Bureau is a strong supporter of the legislation from a property rights standpoint.

Sources: Brownfield Ag News; the Horse

Pet Food Recalls

In the past month, several companies have announce recalls for some of their dog or cat foods and treats. Alerts have been issued by Natura Pet Products; Bravo! frozen raw diet for cats and dogs. In February United Pet Group issued a recall for their Ultra Blend Gourmet Food for Parakeets. To stay current on various alerts, visit and bookmark this page: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/SafetyHealth/RecallsWithdrawals/default.htm> You can also subscribe to email alerts for Animal and Veterinary Health at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yct7357>

Federal Court to Animal-Rights Legal Circus: Pay Up

In a Friday filing, United States District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan found that Feld Entertainment — the parent company of the Ringling Brothers circus — was entitled to attorneys' fees in a longstanding litigation by a series of animal rights and animal liberation groups. To call it longstanding is almost an understatement: Sullivan dismissed the suit in late 2009, which was affirmed by a circuit court in 2011, finding that a number of **animal rights groups lacked the legal authority to file suit claiming** — and **perhaps paid a plaintiff to claim** — that Feld was engaged in elephant cruelty.

Now, the judge has ruled that “this case was groundless and unreasonable from its inception” and the animal rights plaintiffs must pay Feld's legal fees. And while the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) — which was deeply tied to the animal liberationist side of the case — wasn't held liable, the judge left open the question of whether the nation's richest animal liberation group might find itself on the hook at a later date should Feld choose to re-argue that portion of its case. (One of the original plaintiffs that may have to pay up as a result of this finding, the Fund for Animals, was absorbed into the HSUS corporate empire during the case.)

And lest you forget, there's still a *second* lawsuit before Sullivan. In this one the tables are turned: Feld is suing HSUS and others **alleging they engaged in a racketeering conspiracy** in violation of federal RICO law. A different animal rights group, the ASPCA, perhaps saw which way the legal winds were blowing in that case and **paid Feld almost \$10 million in December to settle** both cases.

The editors of *The Wall Street Journal* praised Judge Sullivan's decision to award legal fees to Feld, and they took HSUS boss Wayne Pacelle to task for his petulant hectoring of Feld's defense of its business. The editors write:

The animal-rights crowd responded with letters to the editor suggesting that the lawsuit had been a splendid, public-spirited affair. Humane Society of the United States President and CEO Wayne Pacelle wrote that Feld was a “disgruntled corporation” trying to “silence its critics” because it has filed a “grudge suit” of its own. Mr. Pacelle is upset that plaintiffs have been nailed for abusing the courts to harass a law-abiding company.

We couldn't have put it better ourselves. *Center for Consumer Freedom, April 2, 2013*

Humane Education. Why it is NOT the Right Thing to Do!

Animal rights (AR) groups led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), PETA and the Institute of Humane Education (IHE) are campaigning across the US to implement what they refer to as "humane education" a program of extreme ideological material they aspire to teach in our school systems. They have been successful in a few cities, but up to now have not been successful at the state or federal levels, despite repeated efforts to introduce legislation.

One such effort briefly succeeded in a California school system and some of this "education" did take place. The approach was to show a movie involving animals, such as *Finding Nemo*, immediately followed by a discussion focused on how cruel it is to eat fish. Parents were angered when their children came home declaring they could no longer eat meat or fish.

While it is important that future generations are taught the importance of respecting and caring for animals, both wild and domesticated, we should not allow extremist animal rights groups to dictate information children will be exposed to. Emotional, subliminal vegan messages replacing animal care based on accepted, proven animal husbandry practices is not education, but indoctrination. As our world has become more urbanized and families further removed from the farm and the land, people are more disconnected-and less knowledgeable-about what is considered the proper care of animals by humans.

As animal owners, farmers and horse and dog breeders, we are the targets of animal rights legislation that would criminalize our traditional relationship with animals. We must become pro-active. This must be a concerted effort to expose the hypocrisy, lies and misinformation the animal rights activists preach. We are joining with a number of other animal rights targets to mount a nationwide campaign to educate our legislators and the public on the dangers of what appears on the surface as harmless legislation. It must be stopped before it becomes embedded in our schools. This is a call to action to stay vigilant and not allow vegan biased "humane education" into our schools.

We believe in **animal welfare**, not animal rights. There's a big difference: Animal welfare concerns the prevention of suffering and cruelty to animals; whereas animal rights philosophy advocates an end to all "human use of animals, considering such use "exploitation" of animals. Animal rights activists have gone so far as trying to equate what they call speciesism ("*a prejudice or bias in favor of the interests of members of one's own species and against those of members of other species.*") with racism.

We are dedicated to the care and well-being of animals and believe in their humane and respectful treatment, however we are opposed to the concept of animal rights. We believe human societies requires and accepts the use of animals as sources of food and fiber, as well as for scientific research, sport, entertainment and clothing. We live with and love animals while we also eat and wear animal products. We believe animals are good for humans both physically and mentally, and that we need not be ashamed of, nor have to justify human use of animals.

The education-related web pages of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) (<http://www.humanesocietyyouth.org/>) and the Institute for Humane Education (IHE) (<http://humaneeducation.org/graduate-programs/>) reveal opposition to many lawful, human activities involving animals: animal agriculture; biomedical research; the use of animals for entertainment or sport including circuses, dog and horse shows and racing, mushing, rodeos, fishing, and hunting; wearing leather and generally any activity that uses animals to benefit humans. All these websites project the message that eating meat, dairy products and fish is cruel and a vegan life style is the answer to ending the suffering of billions of farm animals.

Whatever one's personal beliefs regarding the roles of animals in human society, they are views best developed through assimilation of family and community values and adult life experience. Politically charged philosophies regarding the use of animals should not be involuntarily forced upon children and families through indoctrination by organizations with extreme agendas that are incompatible with mainstream American values. These organizations should not have unfettered access to impressionable children.

Further, we should not permit our youth to be indoctrinated with a negative view of ethnic or regional cultures. For example, the indigenous peoples of Alaska and other Native Americans hunt and trap animals for food. We should not foster intolerance of their cultures on the part of impressionable youth. Instead our children should be taught to understand and respect fully the diversity of the American experience, its history and its mix of highly varied cultures across the full spectrum of our society. "Humane Education" as its protagonists would teach it would do just the opposite.

Though it may seem unlikely that we as animal lovers and welfare advocates would oppose proposals to teach "humane education" to children, when the intentions of animal rights organizations are revealed, it's clear why we are taking this stand. We believe decisions about the use of animals should be made with respect for the dignity of human and animal life, and where appropriate, by applying science, rather than emotion to decision-making about our society's treatment of animals. So-called "humane education" represents an effort to indoctrinate youth in the ideology of animal extremism and should be rejected.

We need your help. As extremist animal rights activist organizations ramp up their campaign for "humane education," please notify us if you see this legislation surface in your community or state. And please help us educate legislators and school boards about the underlying messages and intent. Let them know that you support the humane treatment of animals, but not the animal rights extremism embodied in "humane education." *United Horsemen ~ Horsepeople working for a better future for the horse industry.*

Pet Ownership up Recently

American Pet Products Association (APPA) announced the release of the 2013-2014 National Pet Owners Survey. A new question in the Survey asked owners to indicate how they learned of the availability of their pet. Between 40 and 50 percent of pet owners learned their pet was available through word of mouth, making it the most popular method. Signs and bulletin boards are the least popular, with between two and 15 percent of respondents citing them as an awareness source, depending on the species.

Dog ownership swelled to 56.7 million households, while cat ownership grew to 45.3 million. These gains in dog and cat owning households mean that the total number of these pets has also increased. The current Survey reports a total of 83.3 million dogs and 95.6 million cats in the U.S.

An increase in multiple pet owning households also contributed to the overall growth in pet ownership. The Survey reveals that multiple pet ownership is at an all-time high with 44 percent of pet owning households in the U.S. owning more than one pet, up from 42 percent of households in 2010.

While the number of households owning a pet has increased in all categories from the last survey, the proportion of ownership by species has remained fairly stable. Dogs and cats are still the most popular species, owned by 46.7 percent and 37.3 percent of the U.S. population, respectively. After a decline in 2010, freshwater fish returned to ownership levels previously reported from 2000 to 2008 (12 percent). The same can be said for bird ownership, which dipped in 2008 and 2010 to five percent, but is now back up to 5.7 percent. Horse ownership rebounded in 2012, returning to 2.3 percent after a slight drop in 2010. Small animal and reptile ownership levels have increased to 5.7 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively. Saltwater fish ownership saw an increase as well, at 1.5 percent of the total (online) U.S. population. More households than ever before own small animals, reptiles or saltwater fish.

The APPA's annual report on the pet industry found that overall spending increased from \$50.96 billion in 2011 to \$53.33 billion in 2012. The APPA projects that spending will be \$55.53 billion in 2013.



North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.

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