

EXHIBIT NO. 1

19  
6-16-12

~~20~~  
~~6-13-12~~

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** JUNE 6, 2012

**TO:** THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER *RM*

**SUBJECT:** CONSIDERATION OF A REVISED ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES KEEPING DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT TO EXCLUDE THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DOG COLLARS AS A MEANS OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

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**ISSUE:** Consideration of a revised ordinance that amends the definition of a dog running at large by excluding electronic dog collars or any such device as a means of physically restraining dogs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That City Council pass the ordinance on the first reading on Wednesday, June 13 and set it for public hearing, second reading and final passage on Saturday, June 16.

**DISCUSSION:** During the December 17, 2011 Public Hearing, Council rescinded the ordinance it passed on November 12 that amended the definition of a dog running at large to exclude electronic collars or any such device as a means of physically restraining dogs. Council asked staff to reconsider possible amendments, such as an allowance for professional dog training schools to use electronic collars. Council also asked staff, the Animal Welfare League, and interested citizens to get together, talk about changes to the ordinance, and bring it back to Council.

The language in the proposed revised ordinance would not apply to any person while engaged in a supervised, formal obedience training class or show, or during formally sanctioned field trials or field trial dog training or while accompanying a dog within the confines of a dog park designated by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. The ordinance also makes it unlawful for the owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed in the custody of any other person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of the dog.

Since January, City and Animal Welfare League staff have met in person with interested citizens three times and exchanged numerous other communications. A consensus was reached early in the discussions to allow the use of electronic dog collars by dog trainers. There is no consensus,

however, on whether electronic dog collars should be allowed as a means of physical restraint by citizens who own dogs outside of dog parks.

During the meetings, the proponents of electronic collars offered several proposals to allow their use by those who are not dog trainers.

- One proposal would require owner training and certification before electronic collars could be used as done in Rockville, Maryland. Animal Shelter staff, however, indicated that they do not have the staff resources to implement this kind of training and certification. They also expressed concern about how difficult it would be to administer such a program since electronic collars can be purchased at pet supply stores by anyone. When the dog owners suggested that citizens run the training and certification program, the City Attorney's Office staff raised serious questions about enforcement and major City liability. This proposal was dropped by all at that point.
- Another dog owner suggested that City parks be closed to citizens at a certain time during the early morning hours (until 10:00 a.m.) so that the dogs could be on electronic collars without citizens in the parks. City staff did not think that this suggestion was practical or feasible.
- There was also a suggestion that the City staff review the Blacksburg, Virginia ordinance which allows the use of electronic collars without restriction as long as it does not harm the dog. Staff reviewed the ordinance, and decided that the Blacksburg ordinance would not work in a densely populated urban area like Alexandria. Blacksburg has a population of 42,620 and a land area of 19.89 square miles.

At the request of the proponents of electronic collars for facts and/or statistics that would define the problem the ordinance change seeks to address, the Animal Shelter and City Attorney staff provided the group with the following statistics for 18 months through February 2012:

- dogs running at large (853 complaints)
- dog bites (823 complaints)
- 17 dangerous dog cases

Although the group requested information on how many of these complaints involved electronic collars, staff were not able to provide that information, as it was not captured in the reports (information is now being reported). Since mid-March, staff has recorded four complaints involving dogs wearing electronic collars.

City Staff believes that excluding electronic collars as a means of physical restraint is a best practice because of their range (up to ½ mile) and concerns about the safety of all citizens. Animal Welfare League staff concurs in this recommendation. I recommend that Council approve the amendment to the City Code.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**ATTACHMENT:** Ordinance to Amend the Definition of What Constitutes Keeping Dogs  
Running at Large Under Physical Restraint

**STAFF:**

Rose Williams Boyd, Special Assistant to the City Manager  
Mary Beth Mount, Acting Executive Director, Alexandria Animal Shelter  
Meghan Roberts, Assistant City Attorney  
Alfred Coleman, Deputy Director, General Services  
Al Tierney, Captain, Alexandria Police Department

1	Introduction and first reading:	6/13/12
2	Public hearing:	6/16/12
3	Second reading and enactment:	6/16/12
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INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

8 Title

10 AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 5-7-31 (DEFINITIONS), 5-7-33.1  
 11 (RUNNING AT LARGE PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS;  
 12 OWNERS NOT TO LET DOGS RUN AT LARGE IN PUBLIC PARKS OR  
 13 PLAYGROUNDS KEEPING DOGS UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT IN PUBLIC  
 14 PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS), and 5-7-35 (KEEPING DOGS UNDER PHYSICAL  
 15 RESTRAINT) of Article C (DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS) of Chapter 7 (ANIMALS  
 16 AND FOWL), Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of  
 17 The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

19 Summary

21 The proposed ordinance modifies Sections 5-7-31, 5-7-33.1, and 5-7-35 of Article C,  
 22 Chapter 7 of Title 5 to clarify the definition of a dog or other animal running at large.

24 Sponsor

26 None

28 Staff

29 Rose Boyd, Special Assistant to the City Manager  
 30 Jeremy McPike, Director of General Services  
 31 Joy Wilson, Chief Animal Control Manager  
 32 Heather R. Skeeles-Shiner, Assistant City Attorney  
 33 Meghan S. Roberts, Assistant City Attorney

35 Authority

37 § 2.04(p), Alexandria City Charter  
 38 § 3.2-6538, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended  
 39 § 3.2-6539, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended

41 Estimated Costs of Implementation

43 None

45 Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance

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ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 5-7-31 (DEFINITIONS), 5-7-33.1 (RUNNING AT LARGE PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS; OWNERS NOT TO LET DOGS RUN AT LARGE IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS, KEEPING DOGS UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS); and 5-7-35 (KEEPING DOGS UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT) of Article C (DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS) of Chapter 7 (ANIMALS AND FOWL), Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Sections 5-7-31, 5-7-33.1, and 5-7-35 of Article C of Chapter 7, Title 5 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

ARTICLE C

Dogs and Other Animals

Sec. 5-7-31 Definitions.

Unless otherwise expressly stated or the context clearly indicates a different intention, the following terms shall, for the purposes of this article, have the following meanings:

(a) *Animal control officer*. Any person appointed as the chief animal control officer or a deputy animal control officer under section 5-7-44 of this code.

(b) *Animal shelter*. The facility designated by the city manager for the detention of animals.

(c) *Dangerous dog*. Any canine or canine crossbreed that has bitten, attacked, or inflicted injury on a person or companion animal that is a dog or cat, or killed a companion animal that is a dog or cat. However, when a dog attacks or bites a companion animal that is a dog or cat, the attacking or biting dog shall not be deemed dangerous:

(1) if no serious physical injury as determined by a licensed veterinarian has occurred to the dog or cat as a result of the attack or bite,

(2) if both animals are owned by the same person,

(3) if such attack occurs on the property of the attacking or biting dog's owner or custodian, or

1 (4) for other good cause as determined by the court. No dog shall be found to be a  
2 dangerous dog as a result of biting, attacking, or inflicting injury on a dog or cat while engaged  
3 with an owner or custodian as part of lawful hunting or participating in an organized, lawful dog  
4 handling event.

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6 (d) *Dog*. The word "dog" shall include both the male and female sex of the species.

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8 (e) *Commercial dog handler*. Any person who boards, keeps, handles or walks dogs  
9 owned by another person for compensation.

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11 (f) *Dwelling unit*. A group of one or more rooms designed or intended for use as a  
12 residence, including a single-family home, a townhouse, a duplex, a condominium and an  
13 apartment.

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15 (g) *Hearing dog*. Any dog specially trained to alert its owner by touch to sounds of  
16 danger or other sounds to which the owner should respond.

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18 (h) *Law enforcement officer*. Any employee of the Alexandria Police Department who is  
19 responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the penal, traffic or  
20 highway laws of the Commonwealth.

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22 (i) *Owner*. A person having a right of property in a dog or cat, and any person who  
23 keeps or harbors a dog or cat or has it in his care or control, or who acts as its custodian,  
24 including, but not limited to, a commercial dog handler and any person who permits a dog or cat  
25 to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

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27 (j) *Run or running at large*. Roaming or running off the premises of its owner not under  
28 the control of its owner or a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog and not  
29 secured by a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint, which leash, lead or other means of  
30 physical restraint is not harmful or injurious to the dog, and which is held by a responsible  
31 person capable of physically restraining the dog. An electronic collar or other similar electronic  
32 device does not qualify as a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint.

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34 (k) *Seeing-eye dog*. Any dog that is specially trained to serve as a guide for a blind  
35 person.

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37 (l) *Service dog*. Any dog that is specially trained to accompany its owner for the purpose  
38 of carrying items, retrieving objects, pulling a wheelchair or performing other activities of  
39 service or support.

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41 (m) *Vicious dog*. Any canine or canine crossbreed that has

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43 (1) killed a person;

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45 (2) inflicted serious injury to a person, including multiple bites, serious disfigurement,  
46 serious impairment of health, or serious impairment of a bodily function; or

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2 (3) continued to exhibit the behavior that resulted in a previous finding by July 1, 2006,  
3 by the chief animal control officer or city manager as authorized by prior law, that it is a  
4 dangerous dog, provided that its owner has been given notice of that finding.  
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6 (n) *Adequate space.* Sufficient space to allow each animal to:  
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8 (1) easily stand, sit, lie, turn about, and make all other normal body movements in a  
9 comfortable, normal position for the animal; and  
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11 (2) interact safely with other animals in the enclosure. When an animal is tethered,  
12 "adequate space" means a tether that permits the above actions and is appropriate to the age and  
13 size of the animal; is attached to the animal by a properly applied collar, halter or harness,  
14 configured so as to protect the animal from injury and prevent the animal or tether from  
15 becoming entangled with other objects or animals, or from extending over an object or edge that  
16 could result in the strangulation or injury of the animal; and is at least three times the length of  
17 the animal, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, except when the animal is  
18 being walked on a leash or is attached by a tether to a lead line. When freedom of movement  
19 would endanger the animal, temporarily and appropriately restricting movement of the animal  
20 according to professionally accepted standards for the species is considered provision of  
21 adequate space.  
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23 (o) *Adequate shelter.* Provision of and access to shelter that is suitable for the species,  
24 age, condition, size, and type of each animal; provides adequate space for each animal; is safe  
25 and protects each animal from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, direct sunlight, the adverse effects  
26 of heat or cold, physical suffering, and impairment of health; is properly lighted; is properly  
27 cleaned; enables each animal to be clean and dry, except when detrimental to the species; and,  
28 for dogs and cats, provides a solid surface (resting platform, pad, floor mat, or similar device)  
29 that is large enough for the animal to lie on in a normal manner and can be maintained in a  
30 sanitary manner. Under this section, shelters whose wire, grid, or slat floors:  
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32 (1) permit the animals' feet to pass through the openings;  
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34 (2) sag under the animals' weight; or  
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36 (3) otherwise do not protect the animals' feet or toes from injury, are not adequate  
37 shelter.  
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39 Sec. 5-7-33.1 Running at large prohibited in public parks or playgrounds; owners not to let dogs  
40 run at large in public parks or playgrounds; keeping dogs under physical restraint in public parks  
41 or playgrounds.  
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43 (a) No dog shall run at large within any public park or playground at any time.  
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45 (b) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit his dog to run at large in any  
46 public park or playground at any time.

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2 (c) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit the dog to be in a public park  
3 or playground unless it is under the control of its owner or a responsible person capable of  
4 physically restraining the dog and kept secured by a leash, lead or other means of physical  
5 restraint, which leash, lead or other means of physical restraint is not harmful or injurious to the  
6 dog ~~and which is held by a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog~~, or it is  
7 in a designated and posted dog exercise area, as provided in section 6-1-2.2 of this code. An  
8 electronic collar or other similar electronic device does not qualify as a leash, lead or other  
9 means of physical restraint.

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11 (d) This section shall not apply to any person while engaged in a supervised, formal  
12 obedience training class or show, or during formally sanctioned field trials or field trial dog  
13 training, or while accompanying a dog within the confines of a dog park designated by the City  
14 of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and complying with all  
15 regulations governing the use of such dog park. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to  
16 place such dog or allow it to be placed in the custody of any other person not physically capable  
17 of maintaining effective control of such dog.

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19 ~~(d)~~(e) In addition to the officers identified in section 5-7-46, any city employee who is  
20 (1) specifically designated by the city manager, (2) wearing a uniform and (3) carrying  
21 identification may enforce the provisions of this section in accordance with the procedures set  
22 forth in section 5-7-46. As used in the subsection "uniform" shall mean a shirt, jacket or coat on  
23 which is permanently displayed and visible the seal of the city together with the name of the  
24 employee's department, office or agency, and "identification" shall mean a card or badge issued  
25 by the city to identify the employee by name and photograph, or badge number, and indicate that  
26 the employee is an authorized enforcement officer.

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28 Sec. 5-7-35 Keeping dogs under physical restraint.

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30 (a) Except as provided below, it shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit the  
31 dog to be off the premises of its owner unless it is under the control of its owner or a responsible  
32 person capable of physically restraining the dog and it is kept secured by a leash, lead or other  
33 means of physical restraint, which leash, lead or other means of physical restraint is not harmful  
34 or injurious to the dog. An electronic collar or other similar electronic device does not qualify as  
35 a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint.

36  
37 (b) The leash, lead or other means of physical restraint may be removed from a dog in a  
38 designated and posted dog exercise area, as provided in section 6-1-2.2 of this code.

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40 (c) The leash, lead or other means of physical restraint may be removed from a dog on  
41 private property, other than the property of the owner; provided that the owner or person in  
42 control of such private property has permitted such dog to be present without a leash, lead or  
43 other means of physical restraint.

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45 (d) This section shall not apply to any person while engaged in a supervised, formal  
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2 of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and complying with all  
3 regulations governing the use of such dog park. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to  
4 place such dog or allow it to be placed in the custody of any other person not physically capable  
5 of maintaining effective control of such dog.

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Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its  
8 final passage.

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE

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Mayor

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Introduction: 6/13/12

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First Reading: 6/13/12

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Publication:

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Public Hearing:

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Second Reading:

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Final Passage:

ORDINANCE NO. 4764

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sections 5-7-31 (DEFINITIONS), 5-7-33.1 (RUNNING AT LARGE PROHIBITED IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS; OWNERS NOT TO LET DOGS RUN AT LARGE IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS, KEEPING DOGS UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT IN PUBLIC PARKS OR PLAYGROUNDS); and 5-7-35 (KEEPING DOGS UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT) of Article C (DOGS AND OTHER ANIMALS) of Chapter 7 (ANIMALS AND FOWL), Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

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Dogs and Other Animals

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(b) *Animal shelter.* The facility designated by the city manager for the detention of animals.

(c) *Dangerous dog.* Any canine or canine crossbreed that has bitten, attacked, or inflicted injury on a person or companion animal that is a dog or cat, or killed a companion animal that is a dog or cat. However, when a dog attacks or bites a companion animal that is a dog or cat, the attacking or biting dog shall not be deemed dangerous:

(1) if no serious physical injury as determined by a licensed veterinarian has occurred to the dog or cat as a result of the attack or bite,

(2) if both animals are owned by the same person,

(3) if such attack occurs on the property of the attacking or biting dog's owner or custodian, or

(4) for other good cause as determined by the court. No dog shall be found to be a dangerous dog as a result of biting, attacking, or inflicting injury on a dog or cat while engaged with an owner or custodian as part of lawful hunting or participating in an organized, lawful dog handling event.

(d) *Dog*. The word "dog" shall include both the male and female sex of the species.

(e) *Commercial dog handler*. Any person who boards, keeps, handles or walks dogs owned by another person for compensation.

(f) *Dwelling unit*. A group of one or more rooms designed or intended for use as a residence, including a single-family home, a townhouse, a duplex, a condominium and an apartment.

(g) *Hearing dog*. Any dog specially trained to alert its owner by touch to sounds of danger or other sounds to which the owner should respond.

(h) *Law enforcement officer*. Any employee of the Alexandria Police Department who is responsible for the prevention and detection of crime and the enforcement of the penal, traffic or highway laws of the Commonwealth.

(i) *Owner*. A person having a right of property in a dog or cat, and any person who keeps or harbors a dog or cat or has it in his care or control, or who acts as its custodian, including, but not limited to, a commercial dog handler and any person who permits a dog or cat to remain on or about any premises occupied by him.

(j) *Run or running at large*. Roaming or running off the premises of its owner not under the control of its owner or a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog and not secured by a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint, which leash, lead or other means of physical restraint is not harmful or injurious to the dog, and which is held by a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog. An electronic collar or other similar electronic device does not qualify as a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint.

(k) *Seeing-eye dog*. Any dog that is specially trained to serve as a guide for a blind person.

(l) *Service dog*. Any dog that is specially trained to accompany its owner for the purpose of carrying items, retrieving objects, pulling a wheelchair or performing other activities of service or support.

(m) *Vicious dog*. Any canine or canine crossbreed that has

(1) killed a person;

(2) inflicted serious injury to a person, including multiple bites, serious disfigurement, serious impairment of health, or serious impairment of a bodily function; or

(3) continued to exhibit the behavior that resulted in a previous finding by July 1, 2006, by the chief animal control officer or city manager as authorized by prior law, that it is a dangerous dog, provided that its owner has been given notice of that finding.

(n) *Adequate space.* Sufficient space to allow each animal to:

(1) easily stand, sit, lie, turn about, and make all other normal body movements in a comfortable, normal position for the animal; and

(2) interact safely with other animals in the enclosure. When an animal is tethered, "adequate space" means a tether that permits the above actions and is appropriate to the age and size of the animal; is attached to the animal by a properly applied collar, halter or harness, configured so as to protect the animal from injury and prevent the animal or tether from becoming entangled with other objects or animals, or from extending over an object or edge that could result in the strangulation or injury of the animal; and is at least three times the length of the animal, as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, except when the animal is being walked on a leash or is attached by a tether to a lead line. When freedom of movement would endanger the animal, temporarily and appropriately restricting movement of the animal according to professionally accepted standards for the species is considered provision of adequate space.

(o) *Adequate shelter.* Provision of and access to shelter that is suitable for the species, age, condition, size, and type of each animal; provides adequate space for each animal; is safe and protects each animal from injury, rain, sleet, snow, hail, direct sunlight, the adverse effects of heat or cold, physical suffering, and impairment of health; is properly lighted; is properly cleaned; enables each animal to be clean and dry, except when detrimental to the species; and, for dogs and cats, provides a solid surface (resting platform, pad, floor mat, or similar device) that is large enough for the animal to lie on in a normal manner and can be maintained in a sanitary manner. Under this section, shelters whose wire, grid, or slat floors:

(1) permit the animals' feet to pass through the openings;

(2) sag under the animals' weight; or

(3) otherwise do not protect the animals' feet or toes from injury, are not adequate shelter.

Sec. 5-7-33.1 Running at large prohibited in public parks or playgrounds; owners not to let dogs run at large in public parks or playgrounds; keeping dogs under physical restraint in public parks or playgrounds.

(a) No dog shall run at large within any public park or playground at any time.

(b) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit his dog to run at large in any public park or playground at any time.

(c) It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit the dog to be in a public park or playground unless it is under the control of its owner or a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog and kept secured by a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint, which leash, lead or other means of physical restraint is not harmful or injurious to the dog ~~and which is held by a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog~~, or it is in a designated and posted dog exercise area, as provided in section 6-1-2.2 of this code. An electronic collar or other similar electronic device does not qualify as a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint.

(d) This section shall not apply to any person while engaged in a supervised, formal obedience training class or show, or during formally sanctioned field trials or field trial dog training, or while accompanying a dog within the confines of a dog park designated by the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and complying with all regulations governing the use of such dog park. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed in the custody of any other person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of such dog.

~~(d)~~(e) In addition to the officers identified in section 5-7-46, any city employee who is (1) specifically designated by the city manager, (2) wearing a uniform and (3) carrying identification may enforce the provisions of this section in accordance with the procedures set forth in section 5-7-46. As used in the subsection "uniform" shall mean a shirt, jacket or coat on which is permanently displayed and visible the seal of the city together with the name of the employee's department, office or agency, and "identification" shall mean a card or badge issued by the city to identify the employee by name and photograph, or badge number, and indicate that the employee is an authorized enforcement officer.

#### Sec. 5-7-35 Keeping dogs under physical restraint.

(a) Except as provided below, it shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to permit the dog to be off the premises of its owner unless it is under the control of its owner or a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog and ~~it is~~ kept secured by a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint, which leash, lead or other means of physical restraint is not harmful or injurious to the dog. An electronic collar or other similar electronic device does not qualify as a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint.

(b) The leash, lead or other means of physical restraint may be removed from a dog in a designated and posted dog exercise area, as provided in section 6-1-2.2 of this code.

(c) The leash, lead or other means of physical restraint may be removed from a dog on private property, other than the property of the owner; provided that the owner or person in control of such private property has permitted such dog to be present without a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint.

(d) This section shall not apply to any person while engaged in a supervised, formal obedience training class or show, or during formally sanctioned field trials or field trial dog

training, or while accompanying a dog within the confines of a dog park designated by the City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and complying with all regulations governing the use of such dog park. It shall be unlawful for the owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed in the custody of any other person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of such dog.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective September 1, 2012.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
Mayor

Final Passage: June 16, 2012

19  
6-16-12

June 11, 2012

Dear Mayor Euille and Alexandria City Council Members:

Having owned and operated The Olde Towne School for Dogs at 529 Oronoco St. since November of 1975 we would like to comment on the revised ordinance being considered on Saturday June 16, 2012. As per the Council's request we have attended each of the meetings to try and reach some agreement on an appropriate revised ordinance. In attending these meetings we feel that an agenda regarding whether the use of the electronic collar was humane was pushed forward rather than addressing the issue which was how to better word an ordinance so that dogs at large (ie. out of the owner's control) could be cited. This ordinance directly affects only the use of electronic leashes and does not address other pertinent problems in regards to out of control dogs jumping, chasing or frightening people on other types of equipment (ie) flexi leads, long leashes, or failure of equipment. In the discussions we asked that a broader ordinance be written that would allow animals out of control whether on leash or not to be ticketed. As people who works on the streets of the city day in and day out we can say without a doubt our clients while working with us have been jumped on, barked at, lunged at and even attacked by dogs on all different types of collars, harnesses and leashes. We can honestly say that we have not had an incident with a dog on a remote collar. This is not to say it doesn't happen as any piece of equipment is only as good and effective as the person using it. In the first discussion Animal Control handed out literature primarily directed at the inhumanity of the remote collar despite the fact they said it was not a discussion on whether the collar was inhumane. They were directly supported by members of an Arlington based dog training business that opposes remote collars and any training techniques involving corrections. It was very apparent that many attending the meeting were using our city's ordinance discussions to further their training agenda while attempting to discredit their competition. Although you will most likely read other letters that will state the inaccuracies in the memorandum you have received it is important for Council to realize that every attempt was made to try and come to some compromise. It was never suggested that citizens be asked to stay out of parks before 10:00 am but instead that dogs with remote collars be allowed in the parks prior to 10:00 am provided dogs stay within a certain close proximity of the handler. It was also asked if there could be some compromise so that the average person who was not a professional but whose dog was trained could be allowed to work his dog within the city limits off leash. It was made clear that very few people asking for the remote collar to be allowed as a legal leash were asking that their dog run down King St. twenty feet ahead of them on it. In fact most of the e-collar owners agreed that dogs did not need to be off leash on the city streets. All these citizens were asking was for some time in the parks to exercise or work their well-behaved dogs without risk of a ticket. This leads me back to how much more useful a more generalized out of control ordinance would be instead of just targeting the electronic collar.

It is important when you consider this ordinance to realize we could have done better for the citizens and the dog owners of this city if we had not allowed these meeting to become a debate on whether remote collars were an appropriate tool and instead had looked at how we could better establish good dog etiquette in our city. The recommendations regarding keeping all dogs within a certain proximity of the owner and under control should have been taken into consideration. We at the school are very happy to have the inclusion of formal obedience classes being allowed to work off leash. However, we

wish that instead of just targeting remote collars as an inappropriate means of control we could have instead targeted out of control dogs and irresponsible dog etiquette in the city while rewarding the responsible dog owners who practice good dog etiquette.

Sincerely:

Carlos Mejias

Sandy Mejias

Olde Towne School for Dogs

19  
6-16-12

**Jackie Henderson**

**From:** Ltwal@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2012 10:38 PM  
**To:** William Euille  
**Cc:** BPBEACH@aol.com; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg; Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net; sehnald@winsnetworks.com  
**Subject:** Re: Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance

Mr. Mayor,  
It was my intent to express concern that people with legitimate expertise on the issue be an integral part of the council's decision making process. I am sorry I did not make that clearer.

Respectfully,  
Linda Wolf

Linda Trinkle Wolf

In a message dated 6/14/2012 10:29:13 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [William.Euille@alexandriava.gov](mailto:William.Euille@alexandriava.gov) writes:

This is not about The Old Town Dog School, but rather, about public safety.  
Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2012, at 10:22 PM, "[Ltwal@aol.com](mailto:Ltwal@aol.com)" <[Ltwal@aol.com](mailto:Ltwal@aol.com)> wrote:

Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:

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I strongly suggest that in the discussion of this issue, the expertise of the Old Town School for Dogs should be given serious consideration. They have more experience and expertise with this issue than anyone else involved in the discussion. They have been an integral part of why our town has become known as a wonderful place to live with a dog. As a realtor in Old Town, I can attest, first hand, to the positive influence the school has had on our image. I have traveled the east in the dog world, attending shows for obedience and conformation. I have been active nationally with some of the best handlers and breeders in the country. The Old Town School for Dogs is known as one of the **top training schools in the country** and has been referred to in national publications as the Harvard of dog schools. Their list of clients is impressive and the number of champions that have come out of the school in conformation and obedience is also

impressive. I have two champions, myself, that were trained at the school. They are in the best position to advise the city on this matter.

In closing, I must question the use of our tax dollar in chasing demons that don't exist. I wish the city had used all the money it has spent in staff hours to defend this proposed ordinance to save a battered dog, lower the kill rate at our shelter, develop a specialized reading program for children or provide a mammogram for a women without resources to pay for one herself. Seems to me, any of these issues would have been putting our tax dollar to much better use.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Linda Trinkle Wolf  
513 North Alfred Street  
Alexandria

Linda Trinkle Wolf  
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
310 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia  
703-836-8259

email: [ltwal@aol.com](mailto:ltwal@aol.com)

Website: [Lindawolfhomes.com](http://Lindawolfhomes.com)

In a message dated 6/14/2012 8:36:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [BPBEACH@aol.com](mailto:BPBEACH@aol.com) writes:

| Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:

## Jackie Henderson

---

**From:** Ltwal@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2012 10:23 PM  
**To:** BPBEACH@aol.com; William Euille; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg  
**Cc:** Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneheightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net; sehnald@winsnetworks.com  
**Subject:** Re: Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance

Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:

I am disturbed by the amount of time, energy and money our city has spent to address e-collars, when at the time this ordinance was introduced there had been no problems recorded to date. The proponents of the e-collar repeatedly asked for copies of records justifying incidents. We were consistently told that there were no records on file but there have been incidents. How is it possible that there are incidents regarding a citizen's safety that were not recorded? If there have, in fact, been incidents and they were not recorded, this concept of "no records", in my opinion, presents an extremely embarrassing commentary on our city administrative system. I cannot believe that counsel would support confirmation of an ordinance based on such conditions. If incidents occurred, I think we would all agree that the city would not put themselves in such a precarious position of gross neglect by not recording an incident, for liability reasons, alone. It is just not possible our city would make such an egregious error. Without documented incidents, I ask again, why are we spending so much time and money to fix something that is not broken.

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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email: [ltwal@aol.com](mailto:ltwal@aol.com)  
Website: [Lindawolfhomes.com](http://Lindawolfhomes.com)

In a message dated 6/14/2012 8:36:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, [BPBEACH@aol.com](mailto:BPBEACH@aol.com) writes:

| Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:

## Jackie Henderson

---

**From:** BPBEACH@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** William Euille  
**Cc:** Ltwal@aol.com; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg; Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net; sehnald@winsnetworks.com  
**Subject:** Re: Top 5 reasons I use an E collar (apologies to David Letterman)

Bill - I hope you are not saying you think E collars are cruel in your below email but please let me know if you do think that and I will respond.

In responding to your other comment, below are my very personal reasons for using an E collar (they are not in any specific order):

### *Reasons why I use an E collar walking Bob and don't want to always keep him on a hard leash*

#### 1. I DON'T WANT TO BREAK THE LAW

*Every day I see people playing Frisbee or ball with their dogs off leash in the park. It is a joyful sight to see the dogs jumping in the air to catch a ball or running in circles around their owner as was the case with a greyhound and his owner in Waterfront Park this morning around 7:30 a.m. No one else was in the park except Bill our homeless man relaxing on a bench. This is illegal activity under our code. If you do not pass this ordinance, this activity is legal if the dog is on an E collar. Bob is trained and I do not need anything to keep him under control but the E collar gives me a back up and since I wear the control around my neck, it allows others to see the control. In the past, the animal control officer checked me out the first time he saw me but was able to see my E collar control and not waste time on me in the future.*

#### 2. I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LET BOB GO IN THE WATER

It is impossible to allow Bob in the water on leash yet the E collar is waterproof and allows him to swim legally

### 3. I WANT MY DOG (AND ME) TO GET MAXIMUM EXERCISE

We walk a minimum of one hour early every morning along the water on the bike path and in the parks. The only people out are other dog people and the homeless. In the parks, Windhill, Harborside, Founders, Waterfront and Oronoco, Bob can run and play with me ..sniffing as he goes. I can get my 10,000 steps in. The dog parks are well used and it is impossible to run Bob in the small space and unfortunately, I get no exercise. Bob can run circles around me but cannot do so on leash.

### 4. I GOT TRAINED WITH THE E COLLAR KNOWING IT WAS LEGAL IN ALEXANDRIA.

In the early 90's my office mate, Mary Ann Walker ended up in Court over the use of an E collar. The Judge ruled they constituted a "leash" under the City Code. Based on that ruling, not appealed by the City, I spent time and money in being trained on an E collar.

### 5. I CANNOT REINFORCE OBEDIENCE TRAINING ON A LEASH

On an E collar, I can continue my obedience training - I cannot do this on a leash. If you pass the ordinance, I will only be allowed to train or reinforce training in a class. It is important that Bob continue to obey commands amidst distractions...someday it could save his life.

Thank you Barbara

*Barbara P. Beach, Esq*

Barbara P. Beach, Esq

703-683-3434

614 South Royal Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

BPBEACH@AOL.COM

In a message dated 6/14/2012 11:18:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, William.Euille@alexandriava.gov writes:

No one has yet convinced me as to why they oppose the use of walking a dog by leash, and that further, this is cruel and unusual punishment to the pet.

I am not against the use of electronic collars, so as long as they are confined to private property.

But, when in public, a leash must be used as an additional restraint measure.

Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2012, at 10:51 PM, "BPBEACH" <[bpbeach@aol.com](mailto:bpbeach@aol.com)> wrote:

Dear Bill....please read my letter. We have not been given any information re: public safety...a goal we all support ...we have too much information supporting an attack on Olde Towne School including a citizen being told expressly by an animal control officer not to use Olde Towne School for training.

Thank you...Barbara

May or may not be sent from my IPAD :)

Barbara P. Beach, Esq.

703.683.3434

[BPBeach@aol.com](mailto:BPBeach@aol.com)

On Jun 14, 2012, at 10:28 PM, William Euille <[William.Euille@alexandriava.gov](mailto:William.Euille@alexandriava.gov)> wrote:

This is not about The Old Town Dog School, but rather, about public safety.

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Sent from my iPhone

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## Jackie Henderson

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**To:** William Euille  
**Cc:** Ltwal@aol.com; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg; Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net; sehnald@winsnetworks.com  
**Subject:** Re: Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance

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Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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**From:** BPBEACH@aol.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2012 8:36 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg  
**Cc:** Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; Ltwal@aol.com; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net; sehnald@winsnetworks.com  
**Subject:** Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance  
**Attachments:** petitionp1,2.ZIP

Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:

I write (as citizen, a pet lover and an owner of a rescued dog) to ask that you do not pass the proposed E collar dog ordinance. I have been trained along with my dog, Bob, at Olde Towne School for Dogs in both obedience and use of an E collar. Attached is a petition from others who support the ordinance defeat.

After four very frustrating months of trying to work with City and Animal Welfare "staff" on an E collar ordinance, what I have finally understood is that the E collar ordinance is not motivated by need or safety. It does not correct a problem supported by any statistics. The E collar ordinance is motivated by two reasons that have become clear:

1. Other dog training business, such as Fur-Get Me Not, an Arlington dog training business, want to harm Olde Town School for Dogs by eliminating obedience training programs offered by Olde Towne on E collars. There is an overlap between Fur-Get-Me Not and the Alexandria Animal Welfare ...as an example Heidi Meinzer (see her attached blog entries, etc.) is an Assistant Trainer with Fur-Get Me Not and on the weekends, she volunteers for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria according to her web page.
2. The League, Fur-Get Me Not, and Heidi sincerely believe the E collars are bad and want to prohibit anyone from using them. They support something called the positive training method where as I understand it, only positive reinforcement is used in shelter dog training and "charm school". Olde Towne School on the other hand uses multiple training styles tailored to the dogs need, including E collars.

Please do not support an ordinance that is designed to take business from very good, viable Alexandria dog training schools like Olde Towne School for Dogs and Big City Dogs; and

Please do not decide that the positive training method is the only way to train dogs in Alexandria.

I am very troubled by the Alexandria Animal Welfare League election to only support the positive training method. The staff have literally told dog owners not to use Olde Towne School. Most significantly, the Alexandria Animal Welfare League kill nearly 50% of the animals brought to them per the following statistics they have sent to the State and you have to wonder how many of these

animals would have lived if different methods of training were offered that they may have responded well to:

2010 adopted out 598 cats ....killed 709 cats; adopted out 376 dogs ....killed 541 dogs

2011 adopted out 620 cats ....killed 305 cats; adopted out 329 dogs....killed 292 dogs

Here are additional facts on the ordinance:

1. After Council rescinded the last E collar ordinance in December we heard nothing until we were notified in February that there was to be a Feb 15<sup>th</sup> meeting where the redrafted ordinance would be explained to us. The proposed redrafted ordinance discussed the training exemption but did nothing to address the concerns of those of us who use E collars daily to walk our dogs.
2. We were approximately 20 pro E collar users at every meeting with the staff.
3. The people who are promoting the E collar prohibition consist of people who work at the shelter and those associated with one dog training school that competes with Olde Towne School for Dogs – there is an overlap between the two groups.
4. The Alexandria Animal Welfare League has decided that it will only support “positive” training as evidenced by their Charm School for shelter rescue dogs. Rather than try other proven methods such as those taught by Olde Towne School, they prefer to kill an animal who doesn't respond to their method of training...hence the high percentage of kills.
5. The shelter makes no referrals to Olde Towne School for Dogs  
Once we saw the revised ordinance we immediately again asked for incidents or figures to support the need for the ordinance.
6. We proposed several changes to the ordinance that were rebuffed without justification and are misrepresented in the docket staff report as we never proposed closing the parks to anyone to allow dog walking usage. We solely proposed limited early morning usage when the parks were fairly empty.
7. Our belief is that any objectionable behavior should be addressed and not the means for training or loving your pet. Many of us used Olde Towne School for Dogs as out trainers but some of our group are also trainers with their own business. They do not receive referrals from the shelter either.

8. One of our several proposals included language that the E collar would be used only in parks and the animal would keep a reasonable distance from other dogs or people unless invited. This was dismissed because it used the term “reasonable”. The term “reasonable” appears 126 times in the Alexandria City Code but was inappropriate for our use.

9. We have always supported the idea that our pets should not be a pest to others. We are not alone and one jurisdiction has an ordinance that uses the term “reasonable” and address's the behavior rather than the means:

**Unwanted Contact**

The pet owner must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner’s property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping.

10. We asked staff for information of specific incidents involving E collars so we could address those incidents in our proposals. To this day we have not been provided one incident where E collars have been an issue or problem. Four incidents were at the last minute raised but none of them, including the one from 8 years ago, had anything to do with the dog being on an E collar.

We remained puzzled as to why a regulatory prohibition of E collars is needed if there are no statistics to support the need for an ordinance. We have asked time and time again for the need or justification for the ordinance. The sole reason given was “perception”.

I believe that passing an ordinance that prefers one means of training over another is wrong. I further believe that supporting one business over another is wrong. Finally, I believe that killing nearly 50% of the cats and dogs who enter the shelter is wrong. Why should my tax money underwrite one method of training animals that leads to so many deaths when an animal does not respond to that method? Please do not entertain a revised ordinance on E collars The current Code is not broken and needs no revisions.

As always, I thank you for considering my input. I also want to thank the City Attorney for changing the ordinance title to make it clearer.

**Barbara P. Beach, Esq**  
703-683-3434  
614 South Royal Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

We the undersigned support the request made by the Olde Towne School for Dogs Inc. to allow Off-leash training in public places in the city of Alexandria when working with a professional obedience trainer. We also support the use of the electronic leash for dogs and owners who have been trained in their use.

Name	Address
1 SANDRA MESSIAS	529 Oronoco ST Alex. 22314
2 Carlos MESSIAS	529 Oronoco ST Alex. 22314
3 Rebecca Brekke	1301 S Scott St Apt 337 Arlington 22204
4 Marco Miskov	551 E. NELSON AVE Alex Va. 22301
5 Chris Ganzer	3701 S George Mason Dr.
6 Kevin Gilliam	105 Skyhill Rd Alex VA 22314
7 Jill Swartz	4177 S Four Mile Run Arl Va
8 Karen Dwyer	119 Harvard Street Alexandria VA
9 Gabe Mejias	<del>624</del> 529 Oronoco St Alex VA 22314
10 Melinda Lyle	5235 Tanager Ln Alex, VA 22304
11 Patricia Leiner	821 Queen St Alex VA 22314
12 Kathy Meafe	1405 Chapel Hill Rd Alex VA 22304
13 AMINA Kitan	3151 JAMIESON AVE UNIT 611 ALEXANDRIA VA 22303
14 LARSA KANT	801 N. PITT ST ALEX
15 Deb Antonini	3812 Griffith Place Alex 22304
16 BPPLOD	614 S Royal St Alex Va 22314
17 Elizabeth Schmitt	3407 Griffing Place Alex VA 22304
18 Katherine Holmes	2430 27th Court South Apt 107 Arlington VA 22202
19 Peter Corea	4626 Latrobe Va Alex 22314
20 Colleen Fisher	1112 KING STREET, ALEX. VA. 22314
21 Chantal Jennings	10 Potomac Ct. Alex 22314
22 Michele Tsigopoulos	4307 N 15th ST, ARL, VA 22207
23 Deb Rsioba	402 N. PITT Street, Alex. Va 22314
24 Tim Deerr	606 Queen, Alex 22314
25 Mark McAfee	1608 Chapel Hill Dr Alex 22304
26 Ruben Duran	280 S. Whiting St #110 22304
27 Marianne Marzo	630 Pompano Way, Alex 22314
28 Kate Goliz	6060 Woodmont Rd Alex 22314
29 Elizabeth Gomez Verescu	4702 APPLE TREE DR ALEXANDRIA VA 22310
30 Yuki Mabuchi	209 Jefferson St Alexandria VA 22314
31 Kyo Mabuchi	209 Jefferson St, Alexandria VA 22314
32 Jean Kohnblat	408 E MASON AVE ALEX VA 22301
Jonathan Johnson	1501 PRINCESS ST ALEX, VA 22314
Jonathan Johnson	612 N. PITT ST Alex 22314

We the undersigned support the request made by the Olde Towne School for Dogs Inc. to allow Off-leash training in public places in the city of Alexandria when working with a professional obedience trainer. We also support the use of the electronic leash for dogs and owners who have been trained in their use.

Name	Address
1 Mary Ruth Calhoun	4 E Walnut St
2 Barbara Draughon	140 Lynhaven Dr 22305
3 Phebe Brown	828 South Pitt St 22314
4 Connie Spica	4434 Pembroke Village Dr Alex VA 22307
5 Lorna Dressendorfer	602 Bashford Lane #2221 Alex VA 22314
6 Stephanie Focha	5810 Craig St Springfield VA 22150
7 Cheryl Sudubienew	609 F. Woodland Blvd Va 22301
8 Gene Perouse	1601 Park Dr Alex VA 22314
9 Paige Jones	404 N. P. + St
10 Tassler	305 CONSTITUTION NE WASH DC 20002
11 Brian MacLelland	1239 Burton Road, Alexandria, VA 22314
12 Roy Cordell	6209 Cool Valley Ct. Alexandria 22314
13 Sharon E. Regan	6067 Pine Woods Ct 22315
14 Julie Arnold	306 N Fairfax 22314
15	631 N. ALFRED ST 22314
16	701 FONTAINE ST ALEX 22302
17	302 Prince St.
18 Katie Ballard	519 Tobacco Quay 22314
19	1226 Oronoco St 22314
20	310 N Alfred St 22314
21	5108 Donovan Dr #102 22304
22 Mickey & Diana Campagna	719 S. St. Asaph St. 22314
23 RENE REYMOND	1209 MICHIGAN CT
24 Sally Gray	1100 Thayer St. 22234
25 Diana Davis	6816 Tiddle Way, WOODM VA 22079
26 CHRIS MAXSON	110 SHOOTERS CT, ALEX VA 22314
27 NANCY KLINE	1016 1/2 Oronoco St. Alex VA 22314
28 Melissa Russel	317 S. Columbus, Alexani 22314
29 Dale G. RB	211 Walford St 22314
30	
31	
32	

2nd & Blue

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Name	Address
1 SANDRA MESPAS	529 OCEANO ST Alex. 22314
2 Carlos MESPAS	529 OCEANO ST Alex. 22314
3 Rebecca Brakke	1301 S Scot St Apt 337 Arlington 22204
4 MARCO MATHY	551 E WELSON AVE, Alex Va. 22301
5 Chris Ganzer	3701 S George Mason Dr.
6 Kevin Gilliam	105 Skyhill Rd Alex VA 22314
7 Jill Swartz	4177 S FOUR Mile Run Arl Va
8 Karen Douglas	119 Harvard Street Alexandria VA
9 Gabe Mejias	<del>821</del> 529 Oceano St Alex VA 22314
10 Melinda Lyle	5235 Tancradi Ln Alex, VA 22301
11 Patricia Lettner	821 Queen St Alex VA 22314
12 Kathy McAfee	1405 Chapel Hill Rd Alex VA 22304
13 AMINA KHAN	2151 ORMIERON AVE UNIT 611 ALEXANDRIA VA 22303
14 LARSA KAUFL	801 N. PITT ST ALEX
15 Deb Antonini	3812 Griffin + 2 Place Alex 22304
16 BPP Blood	614 S Royal St Alex VA 22314
17 Elizabeth Schmitt	8407 Collins Place Alex VA 22301
18 Katherine Holmes	2430 27th Court South Apt 107 Arlington VA 22202
19 Peter Cores	4626 Latrobe Va Alex 22314
20 Colleen Fisher	1112 KING STREET, ALEX. VA. 22314
21 Chantal Jennings	10 Potomac Ct. Alex 22314
22 Michele Rigopoulos	4307 N 15th St, ARL, VA 22207
23 Deb Psioda	402 N. PITT Street, Alex. VA 22314
24 TIM DEER	606 Queen. Alex 22314
25 Mark McAfee	1608 Chapel Hill Dr Alex 22304
26 Ruben Duran	250 S. Whiting St #110 22301
27 Marianne Marzo	630 Pompadour Walk, Alex 22314
28 Kate Golz	6060 WOODMONT RD Alex 22314
29 Elizabeth Gomez Verano	4302 APPLE TREE DR ALEXANDRIA VA 22310
30 Kyo Mabuchi	209 Jefferson St Alexandria VA 22314
31 Kyo Mabuchi	209 Jefferson St, Alexandria VA 22314
32 Jean Koenblut	408 E MASON AVE ALEX VA 22301
33	501 PRINCESS ST ALEX VA 22314
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1 Mary Ruth Calhoun	4 E Walnut St
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3 Anthea Brown	828 South Pitt St 22314
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5 Lorna Dressendorfer	602 Bashford Lane #2221 Alex VA 22314
6 Stephanie Kocha	5810 Craig St Springfield VA 22150
7 Cheryl Sudubien	609 A. Woodland Cir Va 22301
8 Gary Perreault	1601 Duffield Alex. VA 22314
9 Paige Jones	404 N. P. + St
10 Tassler	305 CONSTITUTION NE WASH DC 20002
11 Brian McClelland	1239 Barron Road, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
12 Roy Cordell	6209 Coal Valley Ct. Alexandria 22311
13 Sharon G. Ruzicka	6067 Pine Woods Ct 22315-
14 The Wood	306 N. Fairfax 22314
15	631 N. ALFRED ST. 22314
16	701 FONTAINE ST ALEX 22302
17	362 Prince St.
18 Katie Ballard	519 Tobacco Quay 22314
19	1226 ORONO ST 22314
20	310 N Alfred St 22314
21	5108 Donovan Dr #107 22304
22 Mickey & D. Campagna	719 S. ST. ASAPH ST. 22314
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28 Melissa Russel	317 S. Columbus, Alexani 22314
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30	
31	
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## Blacksburg trains residents on new leash law - [roanoke.com](http://roanoke.com)

Owners caught walking dogs off-leash this month will get warnings. Enforcement will begin in October.

By Tonia Moxley



The remote and electronic collar are visible as Barbara Newton's dog Talley takes a break in front of the Blacksburg library.



Shaozhuo Cui | Special to The Roanoke Times

Blacksburg resident Barbara Newton and her dogs, Talley and Petey, and her neighbor's dog, Mac, pass pedestrians on Main Street.



Barbara Newton of Blacksburg takes her two Labs, Petey (from left) and Talley, and her neighbor's dog, Mac, on a walk in downtown Blacksburg using an electronic leash. Newton says the dogs are "so much happier" when she uses the electronic leash.

Barbara Newton is no longer an outlaw dog walker -- at least not since Aug. 12 when the Blacksburg Town Council added remote-controlled collar systems to the list of "leash" options allowed in the town.

Newton said she asked town leaders to consider changing the regulations when she found out she was unknowingly violating the law during walks with her two Labrador retrievers.

For 16 years, Newton said she's been using electronic collars to train and walk her dogs and neighbor's pets. From a distance, however, it can look as if Newton's dogs are simply running loose, which has resulted in complaints to the town about her daily forays through downtown and on the Huckleberry Trail.

Newton said she asked Town Attorney Larry Spencer to consider asking the council to change the law to allow what she calls "e-leashes." The council made it official last month on a 6-1 vote.

The new ordinance is "giving me a chance to demonstrate it. I'm not going to mess it up," Newton said.

For several years, it had been a violation of the town code to walk a dog without a traditional leash. But the town's amended leash law both expands options for those walking dogs and clarifies the penalty for disobedience. Violations of the leash law can result in a \$50 fine, the new ordinance states.

Throughout September, owners caught walking their dogs off-leash will get warnings from police, Chief Kim Crannis wrote in an e-mail. Tickets will be issued beginning in October.

Loose dogs, especially at some of the town's parks, have for some time been a problem. Since August 2007, police have logged 37 complaints of dogs running at large. Four of them were dog bite cases, and in three instances owners ended up in court, Sgt. Nathan O'Dell said.

Newton said she hopes that the new leash options will increase compliance with the law and help both dogs and dog owners.

"Most pets are brought to shelters due to behavior problems, including running away," Newton said.

Electronic collars come in various designs and are available at pet stores and online. Some units emit shocks, some vibrate or make a noise and still others spray citronella or other substances into the dog's face. All are meant to discourage problem behaviors such as running away, fighting, digging and barking. Similar collars are used in so-called invisible fencing systems.

When first put on the market many years ago, the shock collars gained a bad reputation for being dangerous to smaller dogs. There also are worries that owners can more easily abuse pets using remote collars. But the technology now makes it much safer and easier to use the devices, Newton said.

Rosie Higdon has more than 20 years of experience as a dog trainer and owns Hi-D-Ho Dog Training in Blacksburg.

"I'm glad to see the law, personally," she said. "But I do have some reservations."

Of course, an owner can harm a dog using an electronic collar, Higdon said. But an owner bent on abuse can hurt a dog with a traditional leash and collar system, too. The biggest concern with any leash system is proper training.

An inexperienced dog will not understand what's expected the first few times an electronic collar is used. And using one is not necessarily a quick fix. It can take up to a month to properly train a dog using a remote collar.

"You've got to teach them what it means," Higdon said. And, "the owner has to know how to use it."

Before using any electronic collar system, Higdon suggests that dog owners work with an experienced trainer. After all, she said, training the owner can be as important as training the dog.

- [Read the full text of the new law](#)

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Heidi Meinzer blog comments from her web site:

- Heidi Meinzer on November 13, 2011 at 7:05 am said:

I do hope there is an effect on businesses to not carry shock collars. It will take more than one local ordinance, but one step at a time!!!

- Heidi Meinzer on November 13, 2011 at 7:04 am said:

This law only clarifies that a shock collar can't qualify as a leash. Probably the movement to get rid of them all together needs to come from Virginia's General Assembly instead of jurisdiction by jurisdiction, but one step at a time! This was great considering that a jurisdiction in a more rural part of Virginia recently did the opposite and clarified that an electronic collar does qualify for a leash.

1. Lammie on November 13, 2011 at 9:23 am said:

What a sad day for Alexandria's well trained dogs. the lack of education and understanding of all dog training tools that is coming out of Alexandria saddens me and makes me happy that I don't live in that part of Virginia.

Although I am all for the dogs in the car ruling, good call!

I wonder when people will choose education and knowledge over myth and stories. Remote collars do not "pose a sufficient safety threat to the dogs and the public" What a load of B.S. Remote collars have trained and will continue to train thousands of dogs every year to be well mannered, good citizens.

I understand the desire for leash laws but if one is going to not allow electronic collars and say they are going to "educate" the public about why a law has changed, perhaps they should take the time to educate themselves about the benefits of a remote collar and what a professional trainer that specializes in Electronic collars can teach you and your dog about how to work as a team both on and off leash.

Banning tools and methods isn't the way to run a community. Education and follow through is. Far more injuries to dogs and owners are coming from retractable/flexi leads then remote collars. Are you going to ban those next?

- Heidi Meinzer on November 13, 2011 at 3:01 pm said:

I can't say that dogs don't learn with shock collars — if the handler knows how to use the shock collar properly and fully understands positive punishment, which can be a big if. Any animal — people included — can learn how to avoid discomfort or pain. I can also say that dogs learn with positive reinforcement methods that are much easier for the everyday handler to implement, much more humane for the dog, and a better way to build a bond between dog and human. I agree that flexi leads are nightmares, but the ordinance doesn't address them — yet. At least they are physical and visible, unlike the shock collars.

Her description of herself:

In an effort to keep up to speed on animal behavior and dog training (and to keep up with Sophie and Boomer!), I am a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) and an Assistant Trainer with Fur-Get Me Not. I serve on the Board of Directors of Homeward Trails Animal Rescue and the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies, and on the weekends, I volunteer for my local animal shelter run by the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Heidi E. Meinzer" <HMeinzer@beankinney.com>

To:

Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:10 PM

Subject: Amendment to leash law in Alexandria, Virginia

Thanks very much for offering to pass information along regarding the leash law amendment in Alexandria. The vote on this amendment comes up on Saturday, June 16. You can help in a variety of ways: by coming personally on June 16, and/or by sending a letter or emailing City Council prior to the vote. You can send an email directly to City Council on their website at: <http://www3.alexandriava.gov/contactus/mailto.php?id=610>

I have attached the proposed amendment to the leash law. If you would like more information about the proposal, feel free to take a look at these:  
<http://www.examiner.com/article/alexandria-leash-law-debate-nears-end-city-council-votes-on-june-16>  
[http://awla.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=animalcontrol\\_legislation](http://awla.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=animalcontrol_legislation)

I've attached a sample letter if you would like to use the letter as a model, or even send it as is. You can also cut and paste the below language, or adapt it as you wish:

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the City's Animal Control Department propose amending the leash due to legitimate public safety concerns. Our animal control officers deserve a bright line rule to enforce the leash law and to require a physical leash. Dogs' handlers should always have their dogs within easy reach to be able to maintain physical control at all times. Moreover, people who are afraid of dogs and fearful or reactive dogs deserve to know that any dog sharing public space is on a physical, visible leash. Electronic collars are not meant to be leashes, and simply cannot address these concerns adequately.

Alexandria is a densely populated, urban area, and is known for being one of the most dog-friendly communities in the country. It only makes sense that the City should be a leader in promoting responsible dog ownership by requiring physical leashes any time dogs are in public spaces. No matter how well trained dogs are, and no matter what methods were used to train dogs, owners should have their dogs on physical leashes. Requiring a physical, visible leash in public is the only sure way to guaranty control and safety for Alexandria's

human and canine residents and visitors.

This proposed amendment will serve to show that Alexandria is a leader in promoting owner responsibility and public safety. Please vote on June 16 to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law.

Thanks again for your help!

Heidi

Heidi E. Meinzer

Bean, Kinney & Korman, P.C.  
Getting It Done (r)

2300 Wilson Blvd., 7th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201  
703.284.7246 direct ☐ 703.525.4000 main ☐ 703.525.2207 fax  
hmeinzer@beankinney.com ☐ www.beankinney.com

Come visit my Companion Animal Law Blog at [www.petlawblog.com](http://www.petlawblog.com)!

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## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Paul Kudarauskas <paulkuda@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Electronic Collars as form of restraint  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 10:41:58] Message ID: [40108]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Paul

**Last Name:** Kudarauskas

**Street Address:** 116 E Glendale Ave

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 6174388019

**Email Address:** [paulkuda@gmail.com](mailto:paulkuda@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Electronic Collars as form of restraint

Dear City Officials-

It has recently been brought to my attention that the

City's regulation against use of electronic collars as a form of

restraint is being challenged. I find the use of electronic collars as a

form of restraint is a terrible idea. It is one thing if someone uses

them on their property. They can do what they want.

On public/city

**Comments:** property a remote control cannot pull a dog off another dog or child it

attacks. A physical means is the only way to prevent this. Not only do

leashes allow for actual restraint, it gives the public who may not be

dog friendly the piece of mind since the animal is attached to the owner.

If people want to use them, let them on their property, not on the City's.

Regards,

Paul

## Jackie Henderson

---

**From:** Sehnal, Daniel <sehnald@winsnetworks.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 10:31 AM  
**To:** William Euille; ltwal@aol.com  
**Cc:** bpbeach@aol.com; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg; Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net  
**Subject:** RE: Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance

I am adding my letter to this email in reference to Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance. Pls add to the Docket material. Thanks, Dan Sehnal

Dear City Manager Young and other interested members of the City Council/Government,

I am writing in regard to the impending Dog Ordinance banning the use of E-collars. I urge that consideration be given to what is really being argued as opposed to what is truly a public safety issue. The issue of necessity must be distinguished from that of personal orientation. I say this because I have listened to many arguments for and against e-collars, and ultimately, in reality, it comes down to personal preferences, not a need. The basis for a new ruling should be that of safety. Safety appears to be the verbalized concern, but there is no evidence that safety is at stake. The question should be, is it unsafe for citizens to be in public places with dogs on e-collars? No relevant data have been provided to support this position. An excuse has been proffered that Animal Control Officers have never collected that information. Prudence dictates that if you don't have the analytical data and can't synthesize the information, collect it and then issue new rules and policies based upon facts. It is unwise to argue that one should legislate public policy without supporting evidence.

I argue that this "safety" perspective has been manipulated to proffer personal agendas concerning individuals' philosophical orientations about dog training methodologies. The methodologies employed are irrelevant to the question at hand and should not be part of a public policy edict. This appears to be a squeaky wheel issue, tendered by commercial special interests as well as well-intentioned citizens who feel that their perspective should be legitimized by regulations. Passing more encumbering laws under these circumstances is not what the City should be doing. Show the cause / effect relationship and then make new laws based upon the merits that the new legislation will solve the problem. Dogs attacking people, a rarer incident in old town than people attacking people, will not be solved by forbidding the use of E-collars. ...And dogs attacking people has nothing to do with E-collars. A dangerous dog on a leash is just as likely to bite or attack a pedestrian as a dangerous dog on an E-collar. The fact of the matter is that dogs on E-collars are likely to be better behaved than dogs on leashes. That is why the phenomena of "Leash Aggression" in dogs is so well documented. Dogs on leashes will feel trapped or threatened when confronted with a situation that they perceive to be dangerous to them, and will act with the only recourse available to them, and that is to be aggressive, when fleeing is what they really want to do. What would this new legislation do to counter that issue? Or for that matter, what would the new legislation do to counter potential problems with owners using extendible leashes that allow the dogs to venture some distance from the owner and thus have a wide expanse of opportunity to attack a passerby? When we talk about public safety, there should be reasonable limits set on what is written in law. I As pointed out by Ms. Beach below, the word "reasonable" appears 126 times in the Code of the City of Alexandria. Laws should be both enforceable and judicious. Public policy should never be arbitrary and capriciously legislated, especially when the impetus for that legislation is perpetrated by individuals with special interests or personal agendas. Additionally, Animal Control has pointed out that they do not have the resources to patrol this new legislation. The City must take into account enforceability, costs and appropriateness in passing this legislation. The appropriateness is

certainly under contention given the lack of evidence and the ensuing costs and required resources to enforce the ruling. These point only weigh in favor of the City not passing such an action.

Kind regards,  
Dan Sehnal  
Old Town Alexandria Resident

Thank you  
Dan Sehnal

-----Original Message-----

From: William Euille [mailto:William.Euille@alexandriava.gov]

Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 11:45 PM

To: ltwal@aol.com

Cc: bpbeach@aol.com; Kerry Donley; Frank Fannon; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Rob Krupicka; Paul Smedberg; Jackie Henderson; mcalh4449@aol.com; conbrio01@comcast.net; j.mabuchi@verizon.net; kbmcafee@comcast.net; yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com; patrice.lemmer@gmail.com; mejias\_2@msn.com; ccurtin1@comcast.net; susanelaineirby@gmail.com; jmccombe@tripwire.com; jenn@bigcitydogs.net; lpbabyt@verizon.net; Sehnal, Daniel  
Subject: Re: Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance

Thx and they will be able to speak on Saturday.  
Bill

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 14, 2012, at 11:30 PM, "ltwal@aol.com" <ltwal@aol.com> wrote:

> Mr. Mayor, my reason for suggesting you include The School in this discussion is that they are experts in this field and can offer additional and pertinent information.

> Linda Wolf

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: William Euille <William.Euille@alexandriava.gov>

> To: BPBEACH <bpbeach@aol.com>

> Cc: Ltwal <Ltwal@aol.com>; Kerry Donley

> <Kerry.Donley@alexandriava.gov>; Frank Fannon

> <Frank.Fannon@alexandriava.gov>; Alicia Hughes

> <Alicia.Hughes@alexandriava.gov>; Del Pepper

> <Del.Pepper@alexandriava.gov>; Rob Krupicka

> <Rob.Krupicka@alexandriava.gov>; Paul Smedberg

> <Paul.Smedberg@alexandriava.gov>; Jackie Henderson

> <Jackie.Henderson@alexandriava.gov>; mcalh4449 <mcalh4449@aol.com>;

> conbrio01 <conbrio01@comcast.net>; j.mabuchi <j.mabuchi@verizon.net>;

> kbmcafee <kbmcafee@comcast.net>; yvonneweightcallahan

> <yvonneweightcallahan@gmail.com>; patrice.lemmer

> <patrice.lemmer@gmail.com>; mejias\_2 <mejias\_2@msn.com>; ccurtin1

> <ccurtin1@comcast.net>; susanelaineirby <susanelaineirby@gmail.com>;

> jmccombe <jmccombe@tripwire.com>; jenn <jenn@bigcitydogs.net>; lpbabyt

> <lpbabyt@verizon.net>; sehnald <sehnald@winsnetworks.com>

> Sent: Thu, Jun 14, 2012 11:18 pm

> Subject: Re: Docket Item #19 E collar ordinance

>

> No one has yet convinced me as to why they oppose the use of walking a dog by leash, and that further, this is cruel and unusual punishment to the pet.

> I am not against the use of electronic collars, so as long as they are confined to private property.

> But, when in public, a leash must be used as an additional restraint measure.

> Bill

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jun 14, 2012, at 10:51 PM, "BPBEACH" <bpbeach@aol.com> wrote:

>

>

>

> Dear Bill....please read my letter. We have not been given any information re: public safety...a goal we all support ...we have too much information supporting an attack on Olde Towne School including a citizen being told expressly by an animal control officer not to use Olde Towne School for training.

>

> Thank you...Barbara

> May or may not be sent from my IPAD :) Barbara P. Beach, Esq.

>

> 703.683.3434

> BPBeach@aol.com

>

>

> On Jun 14, 2012, at 10:28 PM, William Euille <William.Euille@alexandriava.gov> wrote:

>

>

>

> This is not about The Old Town Dog School, but rather, about public safety.

> Bill

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> On Jun 14, 2012, at 10:22 PM, "Ltwal@aol.com" <Ltwal@aol.com> wrote:

>

>

>

> Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:I am disturbed by the amount of time, energy and money our city has spent to address e-collars, when at the time this ordinance was introduced there had been no problems recorded to date. The proponents of the e-collar repeatedly asked for copies of records justifying incidents. We were consistently told that there were no records on file but there have been incidents. How is it possible that there are incidents regarding a citizen's safety that were not recorded? If there have, in fact, been incidents and they were not recorded, this concept of "no records", in my opinion, presents an extremely embarrassing commentary on our city administrative system.I cannot believe that counsel would support confirmation of an ordinance based on such conditions. If incidents occurred, I think we would all agree that the city would not put themselves in such a precarious position of gross neglect by not recording an incident, for liability reasons, alone. It is just not possible our city would make such an egregious error.Without documented incidents, I ask again, why are we spending so much time and money to fix something that is not broken.

> I strongly suggest that in the discussion of this issue, the expertise of the Old Town School for Dogs should be given serious consideration. They have more experience and expertise with this issue than anyone else involved in the discussion. They have been an integral part of why our town has become known as a wonderful place to live with a dog. As a realtor in Old Town, I can attest, first hand, to the positive influence the school has had on our image. I have traveled the east in the dog world, attending shows for obedience and conformation. I have been active nationally with

some of the best handlers and breeders in the country. The Old Town School for Dogs is known as one of the top training schools in the country and has been referred to in national publications as the Harvard of dog schools. Their list of clients is impressive and the number of champions that have come out of the school in conformation and obedience is also impressive. I have two champions, myself, that were trained at the school. They are in the best position to advise the city on this matter.

>

> In closing, I must question the use of our tax dollar in chasing demons that don't exist. I wish the city had used all the money it has spent in staff hours to defend this proposed ordinance to save a battered dog, lower the kill rate at our shelter, develop a specialized reading program for children or provide a mammogram for a women without resources to pay for one herself. Seems to me, any of these issues would have been putting our tax dollar to much better use.

>

> Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

>

>

>

>

> Linda Trinkle Wolf  
> 513 North Alfred Street  
> Alexandria

>

>

> Linda Trinkle Wolf  
> Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage  
> 310 King Street  
> Alexandria, Virginia  
> 703-836-8259

>

> email: ltwal@aol.com

> Website: Lindawolfhomes.com

> In a message dated 6/14/2012 8:36:09 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, BPBEACH@aol.com writes:

> Dear Mr Mayor and Members of City Council:

>

>

>

## Jackie Henderson

---

**From:** Marsha Wallace <ecresqr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 12:27 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: e-collars  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 12:27:25] Message ID: [40113]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Marsha  
**Last Name:** Wallace  
**Street Address:** 607 wayne st  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22301  
**Phone:** 703-548-7641  
**Email Address:** [ecresqr@gmail.com](mailto:ecresqr@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** e-collars

I oppose the use of shock collars and feel the City should ban them as a means of controlling dogs on public streets. There are more humane ways to do this and a leash is always the best way. However, the City should also penalize people who walk dogs off leash in public places...it is always best to have physical control of one's dog, no matter how well trained they are. I DO feel that many dogs are perfectly well-behaved walking off leash so I would reserve citations for people who are clearing creating a public danger. Perhaps if someone has a dangerous dog that can only be controlled with an e-collar, their vet or a certified credentialed trainer should write a note stating that the dog could present a danger to the public otherwise.

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Sandra Schlachtmeyer <skschla@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 11:37 AM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Dogs to be leashed  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 11:37:03] Message ID: [40111]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Sandra

**Last Name:** Schlachtmeyer

**Street Address:** 124 Princess Street

**City:** Alexandria

**State:**

**Zip:** 22314

**Phone:** 703-548-4891

**Email Address:** [skschla@aol.com](mailto:skschla@aol.com)

**Subject:** Dogs to be leashed

I whole-heartedly support the proposed ordinance change that requires dogs

to be on a Visible Leash under the firm control of a responsible person at all times when the dog is not on private property.

I have been told by

dog owners that their dog does not have to be leashed when on a city street

because the street is not a park. I want to be sure all dogs are leashed when around the public.

**Comments:** I have seen large dogs running unleashed far

away from their owners in Oronoco Bay Park. While I appreciate the need for

dogs to run, even a sparcely attended public park is not an appropriate place.

Thank you for the time and attention the City has spent on this

issue. I particularly appreciated seeing the number of incidents between dogs and the public: almost a thousand incidents in 8 years is far too many.

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Olivia Nazar <misslivilu@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Leash Law  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 12:35:10] Message ID: [40114]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Olivia  
**Last Name:** Nazar  
**Street Address:** 509 North Howard Street  
Apartment 201  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** Virginia  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:**  
**Email Address:** [misslivilu@yahoo.com](mailto:misslivilu@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Leash Law  
The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the City's Animal Control Department propose amending the leash law due to legitimate public safety concerns. Our animal control officers deserve a bright line rule to enforce the leash law and to require a physical leash. Dogs' handlers should always have their dogs within easy reach to be able to maintain physical control at all times. Moreover, people who are afraid of dogs and fearful or reactive dogs deserve to know that any dog sharing public space  
**Comments:** is on a physical, visible leash. Electronic collars are not meant to be leashes, and simply cannot address these concerns adequately.  
Alexandria  
is a densely populated, urban area, and is known for being one of the most dog-friendly communities in the country. It only makes sense that the City should be a leader in promoting responsible dog ownership by requiring physical leashes any time dogs are in public spaces. No matter how well

trained dogs are, and no matter what methods were used to train dogs, owners should have their dogs on physical leashes. Requiring a physical, visible leash in public is the only sure way to guaranty control and safety for Alexandria's human and canine residents and visitors.

This

proposed amendment will serve to show that Alexandria is a leader in promoting owner responsibility and public safety. Please vote on June 16 to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law.

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Sarah Haut <hautsl@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 1:07 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Docket item 19 - dog restraint  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 13:07:05] Message ID: [40116]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

**First Name:** Sarah

**Last Name:** Haut

**Street Address:** 228 E. Nelson Ave

**City:** Alexandria

**State:** VA

**Zip:** 22301

**Phone:** 703-967-0426

**Email Address:** [hautsl@yahoo.com](mailto:hautsl@yahoo.com)

**Subject:** Docket item 19 - dog restraint

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members,

I am against the language

being considered for the ordinance that relates to recognizing electronic collars as an appropriate physical dog restraint. I briefly reviewed the document associated with the docket item. The document indicates that an

electronic collar would be permitted for formal dog training. What constitutes formal dog training? If someone is using an electronic collar to walk their dog on the street and says they are training the dog, does that count as formal dog training?

**Comments:**

When an owner has a dog with an electronic collar and it sees a cat, child, or other dog and races after it, if the owner is not paying attention, the dog can run a significant distance before the electronic collar intervenes. In the same situation, if the dog is on a leash, it can only go as far as the length of the leash.

An electronic collar provides no protection from other dogs. For

example, if an aggressive dog begins to attack a dog on a regular leash,  
at

least the owner can yank the dog out of harm's way. With an electronic  
collar, there is no quick way to remove the dog from a dangerous  
situation.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this subject as you make  
your final decision.

Sarah Haut

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Patrick Cole <pcole7@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 4:02 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Leash Law Amendment  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 16:02:20] Message ID: [40125]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Patrick  
**Last Name:** Cole  
**Street Address:** 5300 Holmes Run Parkway  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304  
**Phone:** 703-585-7065  
**Email Address:** pcole7@gmail.com

**Subject:** Leash Law Amendment

Dear Members of City Council,

Although I am employed by the Animal

Welfare League of Alexandria, I am also a life-long Alexandria resident. I

have lived in the West End for nearly 30 years and have had dogs as pets

for most of that time. Today I am writing as a citizen of

Alexandria.

Unlike Old Town, Del Ray, and other areas of the City, the

West End is home to many more condo-owners and renters of apartments. Many

**Comments:**

of these multi-family dwellings are dog-friendly, but I feel that could

change if electronic shock collars are to be considered as physical

restraint. In addition to the many opinions and facts that have already

been stated by numerous opponents and proponents of the amendment, I'd like

to focus specifically on the West End.

Unlike the townhouses and

single-family houses found throughout much of the City, residents of the

West End are far more likely to use public elevators, stairwells, and other

confined spaces to transport their dogs outside for regular walks and exercise. In such close proximity to other residents who may be afraid of dogs or not know how to properly interact with dogs, as well as other dogs,

a physical leash is absolutely necessary to maintain control. It is unreasonable to expect that even the most well-behaved dog on an electronic shock collar would be controlled during an altercation in an elevator or similar space without the owner physically controlling his/her animal.

My understanding is that as plans to renovate the West End move forward, the area between Van Dorn and Beauregard will soon resemble Ballston, Clarendon, Rosslyn, and other areas in Arlington. As this area moves towards a more urban, city-style environment, population density and

the number of relatively affluent dog-owners are likely to increase, along with the potential for dog-dog and dog-human interactions in elevators, stairwells, parking garages etc. Rather than wait for an increase in incidents or an incident resulting in serious harm or death to a human or animal, I feel the responsible thing to do is require all dogs in public to be restrained by a physical leash. Alexandria is not growing

geographically, but population and urban development are increasing, which

will lead to more physical interaction among neighbors, residents and visitors. Essentially, much of the open space in the West End is shrinking.

Any new public parks created will be hubs for dog owners and non-dog owners

alike. The concentration of people and animals in these public areas poses

a greater potential for any type of incident.

Furthermore, looking at

demographic data from the most recent Census, it's clear that there is an economic disparity between residents of the West End as a whole and residents of areas such as Old Town or the Quaker Lane area. To my knowledge, there are no dog obedience training schools on the West End, such as Old Town School for Dogs, and many West End residents may not have

the financial means or transportation to enroll is such a prestigious and posh school for their dogs. However, they can easily obtain an electronic shock collar from a number of pet care stores and begin using these devices

as physical restraint without any training. By not requiring dog owners to restrain their pets with a physical leash, I feel the City would be opening a can of worms by allowing untrained dogs and owners to pose a threat to all other humans and animals, even if this threat is unintentional.

Lastly, by allowing electronic shock collars to be used as physical restraint devices the City would be in direct conflict with what ALL manufacturers of these devices explicitly state on their packaging. Electronic shock collars are training devices - nothing more and nothing less. They are not intended, designed, or recommended as a replacement for a physical leash. For those wishing to properly train their dogs on electronic shock collars, there is an abundance of dog parks within the City limits where training and practice can take place. However, our public areas should not be used as training areas where training devices are incorrectly used as a sole means of physical restraint. That goes for shock collars, clickers, dog whistles, or any other training device.

There are other differences between the West End and the rest of Alexandria that I will not address in this email (average household size, percentage of non-English speakers, etc.) but that deserve some thought and consideration. While Old Town and the neighborhoods that border it may be the most recognizable parts of Alexandria, the residents of the West End deserve consideration too when making City-wide decisions. West End residents may not be the most vocal when it comes to animal matters, but the landscape, population demographics, and future development plans lead me to believe that dogs on electronic shock collars could pose more of a public safety threat here than anywhere else in the City.

Thank

you.

- Patrick Cole

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Mark Williams <markcwilliams@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 18, 2012 8:25 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Electronic Dog Collars - Thank You !  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Mon Jun 18, 2012 20:24:37] Message ID: [40184]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Mark  
**Last Name:** Williams  
**Street Address:** 100 Cameron Station Blvd  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22304-7737  
**Phone:** 202-531-5125  
**Email Address:** [markcwilliams@yahoo.com](mailto:markcwilliams@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Electronic Dog Collars - Thank You !

Many thanks for enacting this reasonable local ordinance. Had Council not enacted this ordinance, it would have become perfectly lawful to cruelly neglect an animal and leave the animal at large under the guise of "electronically collaring". The result could easily have been animals left without water, food or shelter -- but deemed to be cared for solely by virtue of being fastened to an electronic shock device.

**Comments:** Electronic collars would permit any collared animal to range at large - perhaps to be struck by a vehicle, or to become lost, or to be stolen, or to be captured and sold (perfectly lawfully) by a "class B" animal dealer. Electronic collars are not assured to be effective, they can and do permit collared animals to escape their premises, and they are inherently designed to produce pain. While I understand that the ordinance was not predicated on anti-cruelty arguments, the ordinance does promote a reasonable anti-cruelty result.

The handful of localities that are more progressive as to animal protection issues than Alexandria have not adopted uniform, permissive e-collaring laws -- the ordinance does not make Alexandria an "outlier". An e-collar is no excuse for a responsible pet owner. And an e-collar does not in any respect assure humane treatment or lost-animal recovery. Only responsible supervision of limited e-collar use -- not general, unregulated reliance on e-collars -- would be reasonable. Thanks for voting accordingly.

MCW

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Ryan Porter <ryan.porter88@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Leash Ordinance  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 17:03:02] Message ID: [40129]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Ryan  
**Last Name:** Porter  
**Street Address:** 221 Oronoco St  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 703-350-25514  
**Email Address:** [ryan.porter88@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.porter88@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Leash Ordinance

Dear City Council,

I am writing today to strongly encourage you to

support the proposed changes to the leash law ordinance that would prohibit

dog owners from being able to use electronic collars as form of physical restraint. I am not only a dog lover, but a dog owner and a resident of Old Town Alexandria.

My father is a United States Navy Captain,

**Comments:** and when I was seventeen years old he was stationed in Alexandria. My parents have since been stationed elsewhere, but I knew as soon as we arrived that this was the place I wanted to make my "hometown".

For the last six years, I have been unbelievably proud to call Alexandria my home. However, the recent negativity surrounding the proposed changes

to the leash law ordinance have put an extremely bad taste in my mouth.

It pains me to say that if City Council choses to allow electronic collars to be considered "physical restraint" I will lose some of the

pride I have in this City. It is incredibly disappointing to think that there is a chance City Council will put the citizens of Alexandria, AND our animals in danger. There is absolutely NO WAY that you can guarantee that every individual using an electronic collar to control their dog will be trained in the "proper" use of the device, nor can you guarantee that EVERY dog wearing an electronic collar will always obey and react properly when it is buzzed by its owner. Banning electronic collars as physical restraint is in no way an attack on any dog training group, it is a measure that if taken, would provide safety to the overall largest group of individuals, which we should all agree is the most important point. If someone wants to use an electronic collar and allow their dog the freedom to wander around without them having to hold onto it, then they need to go someplace where there is the appropriate space and area to do so. A crowded city with numerous children, other pets, vehicles, buses, etc. is an EXTREMELY irresponsible place for a dog to be on an electronic collar.

Another point I would like to make is in regards to the fact that there are individuals who are extremely fearful of dogs. It is incredibly unfair and irresponsible to subject a person who has a fear of dogs to a law that would allow dogs to NOT be physically restrained by a leash. As we all know, city streets are small and crowded. If you allow dogs to be able to wander freely with only an electronic collar, you are unnecessarily putting people and dogs into situations where someone could be seriously injured both physically and mentally.

In conclusion, as a resident of Alexandria, I am asking you to uphold your job as City Council members and do what is required to keep ALL citizens of this city, and their beloved dogs, safe. In situations like this, the path that must be chosen is the one that provides protection and keeps the overall majority of citizens safe. In this instance, the path that MUST be chosen is the one that amends the leash ordinance to prohibit the use of electronic collars as physical restraint. Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly appreciate everything you do for our

city.

Sincerely,  
Ryan-Kathleen Porter

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Tom Wolf <twolf@visular.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 5:23 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Leash Law  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 17:23:05] Message ID: [40131]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Tom  
**Last Name:** Wolf  
**Street Address:** 903 Duke St.  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 7035180624  
**Email Address:** [twolf@visular.com](mailto:twolf@visular.com)  
**Subject:** Leash Law  
The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the City's Animal Control Department propose amending the leash due to legitimate public safety concerns. Our animal control officers deserve a rule to enforce the leash law and to require a physical leash. Dogs' handlers should always have their dogs within easy reach to be able to maintain physical control at all times. Moreover, people who are afraid of dogs and fearful or reactive dogs deserve to know that any dog sharing public space is on a physical, visible leash. Electronic collars are not meant to be leashes, and simply  
**Comments:** cannot address these concerns adequately.  
No matter how well trained  
dogs are, and no matter what methods were used to train dogs, owners should  
have their dogs on physical leashes. Requiring a physical, visible leash in public is the only sure way to guaranty control and safety for Alexandria's human and canine residents and visitors.  
Please vote on  
June 16 to pass the proposed amendment to Alexandria's leash law.

## Jackie Henderson

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**From:** Anu Shah <anu\_khosla@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 15, 2012 10:11 PM  
**To:** William Euille; Frank Fannon; Kerry Donley; Alicia Hughes; Del Pepper; Paul Smedberg; Rose Boyd; Jackie Henderson; Rob Krupicka; Linda Owens; Elizabeth Jones  
**Subject:** COA Contact Us: Ordinance Requiring Dogs to be under Physical Restraint  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt

### COA Contact Us: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

Time: [Fri Jun 15, 2012 22:11:17] Message ID: [40136]

**Issue Type:** Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members  
**First Name:** Anu  
**Last Name:** Shah  
**Street Address:** 707 Hawkins Way  
**City:** Alexandria  
**State:** VA  
**Zip:** 22314  
**Phone:** 617-304-1167  
**Email Address:** [anu\\_khosla@hotmail.com](mailto:anu_khosla@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Ordinance Requiring Dogs to be under Physical Restraint

Hello,  
I just wanted to voice my opinion on the ordinance requiring that  
  
all dogs be under physical restraint at all times. I agree with the  
  
intent, but not with ordinance's non-recognition of e-collars as a valid  
  
means of restraint.  
**Comments:** I think that the city should seriously look at the  
  
intent of it's ordinance and seriously consider the impact on freedom of  
  
choice before seriously considering this ordinance.  
Thanks,  
Anu

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor and Alexandria City Council Members,

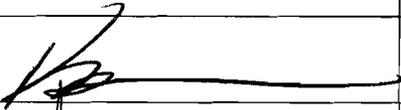
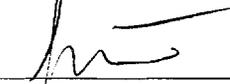
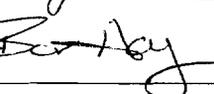
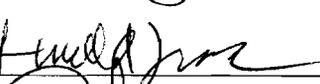
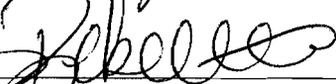
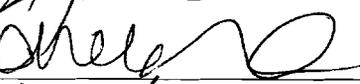
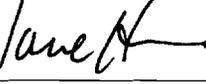
Please vote to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law that will clarify that shock collars do not qualify as leashes or physical restraint.

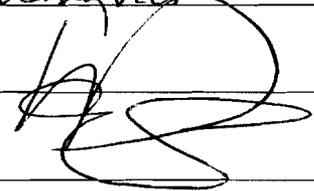
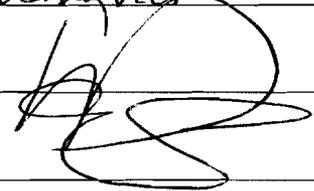
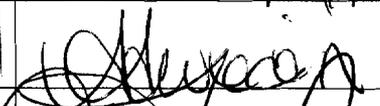
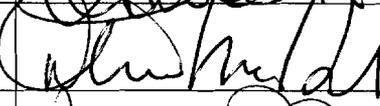
This amendment is necessary because we believe that:

- Responsible dog ownership includes keeping our dogs on physical leashes in public
- Animal Control deserves a bright line rule requiring a physical leash to keep our city and its human and canine residents and visitors safe
- Shock collars are not meant to be leashes or a form of physical restraint, and are not as safe as physical leashes

Please take the initiative on June 16, 2012 to amend the leash law to require a physical leash.

Sincerely,

Name	Signature	I live in Alexandria	I visit Alexandria
KATHERINE VAN DIEST		✓	
Serdar Basgmez		✓	
Stacey Swartz		✓	
Barbara Hayward		✓	
Amelia Jimenez			✓
Rebekah White		✓	
Renee Armet		✓	
Janet Keller			✓
George Fausz		✓	

Name	Signature	I live in Alexandria	I visit Alexandria
Dennis Menzberger		✓	
Debra G. White	Debra G. White	✓	
Renee Altman	RENEE Altman	✓	
<del>Ann</del>	<del>undoubtedly</del>	✓	
Meredith M		✓	
Elizabeth Piren			✓
Benjamin Caspers	Benjamin Caspers		✓
MARIA ADAMS	Maria A. Adams	✓	
LINDA HOTTE	Linda T. Hottel		✓
GRETCHEN TURNER	Gretchen Turner	✓	
Sharon Mitchell	SHARON MITCHELL	✓	
ANTONIA KWIECIEK		✓	
DIANE McINTOSH			✓
Irene Iron	Irene Iron	✓	
Vila Jackson	Vila Jackson	✓	
LISA ANTONELLI	Lisa Antonelli	✓	
Tony Cooch	Tony Cooch		✓
OLIVIA B. NAZAR	Olivia B. Nazar	✓	
Nidia Coton	N. DIA COTON	✓	

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor and Alexandria City Council Members,

Please vote to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law that will clarify that shock collars do not qualify as leashes or physical restraint.

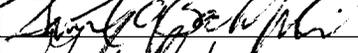
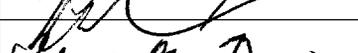
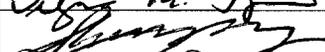
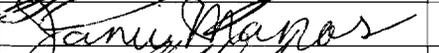
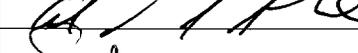
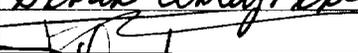
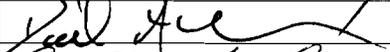
This amendment is necessary because we believe that:

- Responsible dog ownership includes keeping our dogs on physical leashes in public
- Animal Control deserves a bright line rule requiring a physical leash to keep our city and its human and canine residents and visitors safe
- Dogs deserve to be treated and trained in a way that does not involve force, pain or intimidation

Please take the initiative on June 16, 2012 to amend the leash law to require a physical leash.

Sincerely,

Concerned Fur-Get Me Not employees and clients who live in and visit the City of Alexandria

Name	Signature	I live in Alexandria	I visit Alexandria
Thomas P Olson			✓
Eric Ciccoretta			✓
Samuel G. Beckfield			✓
Geoff Hebdug			✓
James Owens			✓
Jagan Flynn			✓
Stephan Flanagan			✓
Jamie Marcos		✓	
Lee Ann Watson			✓
GABRIEL STERLING			✓
Shauna Coleman			✓
GLORIA CloteyKene			✓
Jeremy Medovny			✓
Daniel Miller			✓
Justin Shellaway			✓

Name	Signature	I live in Alexandria	I visit Alexandria
Kathryn Kublen		✓	
Demetra E. Arns			✓
Heather Polzin			✓
Julia Ball			
STEVEN FRANKMAN			✓
Maria Cristina Melendez			✓
Todd Brecher			✓
<del>_____</del> Viriam Chum			✓
Maat Wadsworth			✓
James Meale			✓
David Applebaum			✓
Tom Lemon			✓
Nicole Brisker			✓
Tom Aalstari			✓
Suzanne McWannick			✓
Robin Meidhof			✓
Grace Campbell			✓
Bryson Patrick			✓
Deborah A Butler		✓	
Cheryl A Edson		✓	
Karyl Suter		✓	
David Zlotnik			✓
Ken Gehle		✓	
Jami Pulos			✓
Ann Fale			✓
Zygo Marie			✓
Jay Matson			✓
Melanie Norman			✓
Joe Sikes		✓	
Robert Booth			✓
Gasiliano R. Ozuna			✓
Jammy Viori Murphy		✓	
Lauren Keenan			✓
Elsy Arrida-Marin			✓

Lauren Keenan

Dear Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor and City Council Members,

Please vote to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law that will clarify that shock collars do not qualify as leashes or physical restraint.

This amendment is necessary because:

- Responsible dog ownership includes keeping our dogs on physical leashes in public
- The City and Animal Control deserve a bright line rule of requiring a physical leash to keep our city and its human and canine residents and visitors safe
- Dogs deserve to be treated and trained in a way that does not involve force, pain or intimidation

Please take the initiative on June 16, 2012 to amend the leash law to require a physical leash.

Sincerely,

Concerned Fur-Get Me Not employees and clients who live in and visit the City of Alexandria

Name	Signature	I live in Alexandria	I visit Alexandria
Tammy Rosen	Tammy Rosen		X
Vinny Levin Shuman	Vinny Levin Shuman	X	
Roz Ferber	Roz Ferber	X	
AMAAA STOTT	AMAAA STOTT		✓
Christa Sieman	Christa Sieman		✓
Stacia Kuehl	Stacia Kuehl	X	
Traci Park	Traci Park		✓
David Gacemore	David Gacemore		✓
Kendal Kirby	Kendal Kirby		X
Jennifer Notti	Jennifer Notti		✓
Laura Kelly	Laura Kelly	X	
Ryan Desmond	Ryan Desmond		X
Virginia Broitman	Virginia Broitman		X
Margaret Stout	Margaret Stout		✓



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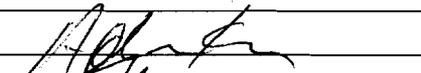
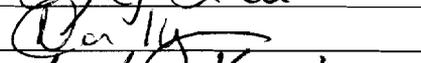
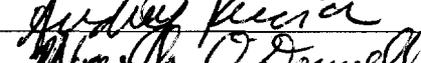
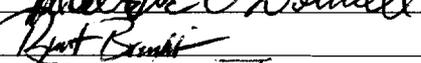
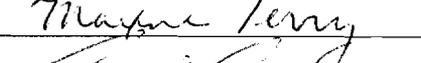
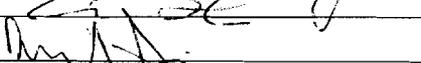
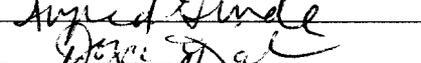
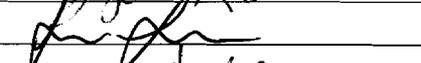
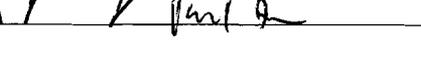
This amendment is necessary because we believe that:

- Responsible dog ownership includes keeping our dogs on physical leashes in public
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Sincerely,

Concerned Fur-Get Me Not employees and clients  
who live in and visit the City of Alexandria

Name	Signature	I live in Alexandria	I visit Alexandria
Adrian Katsay		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Anaela Rahman			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JENNIFER LEE			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Darnell WARDY			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Audrey Kucial			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MARK O'Donnell			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robert Brambilla			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maxine TERRY		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Eric Sisk			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Puneet Arora			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Naomi Lehn			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ingrid Grinde			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joyce Kohn			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joson Levine			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<del>Paul Stern</del> Paul Stern			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



City Council for the City of Alexandria  
301 King Street, Suite 2300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Support for the proposed amendment to Alexandria's leash law

Dear Mayor Eulle, Vice Mayor Donley and Council Members:

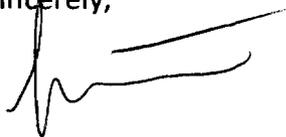
This letter is written in support of the proposed amendment to Alexandria's leash law. As a local business, we support the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and Animal Control in their efforts to promote owner responsibility and public safety.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the City's Animal Control Department brought the amendment to the table as a public safety issue. Our animal control officers deserve a bright line rule to require a physical leash, and they have legitimate concerns that a dog's handler always be within easy reach of his or her dog to be able to maintain physical control of the dog at all times. Moreover, people who are afraid of dogs and fearful or reactive dogs deserve to know that any dog sharing public space is on a physical, visible leash. Electronic collars are not meant to be leashes, and simply cannot address these concerns adequately.

Alexandria is a densely populated, urban area, and is known for being one of the most dog-friendly communities in the country. It only makes sense that the City should be a leader in promoting responsible dog ownership by requiring physical leashes any time dogs are in public spaces. No matter how well trained dogs are, and no matter what methods were used to train dogs, owners should have their dogs on physical leashes. Requiring a physical, visible leash in public is the only sure way to guaranty control and safety for Alexandria's human and canine residents and visitors.

This proposed amendment will serve to show that Alexandria is a leader in promoting owner responsibility and public safety. Please vote on June 16 to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law.

Sincerely,



Name of business:

By: Greener Cleaver of Del Ray

Address: 2210 Mt. Vernon Ave. Alex. VA. 22314

Date: 6/7/12

City Council for the City of Alexandria  
301 King Street, Suite 2300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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This proposed amendment will serve to show that Alexandria is a leader in promoting owner responsibility and public safety. Please vote on June 16 to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law.

Sincerely,

Name of business: Neighborhood Pharmacy of Del Ray

By: Stacy Swartz | Barbara Hayward

Address: 2204 mt. Vernon Ave

Date: 4/7/12

City Council for the City of Alexandria  
301 King Street, Suite 2300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Support for the proposed amendment to Alexandria's leash law

Dear Mayor Eulle, Vice Mayor Donley and Council Members:

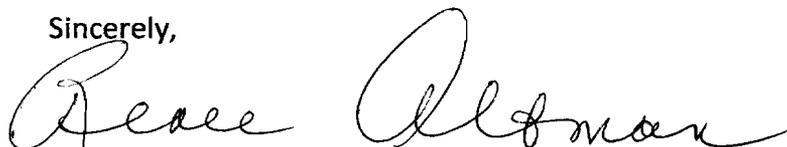
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This proposed amendment will serve to show that Alexandria is a leader in promoting owner responsibility and public safety. Please vote on June 16 to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law.

Sincerely,



Name of business:

2303 MTVERNON AVE  
By: ALEX, VA 22305

Address:

THE CLAY QUEEN POTTER

Date:

6/7/12

June 14, 2012

City Council for the City of Alexandria  
301 King Street, Suite 2300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Amendments to Alexandria's leash law

Dear Mayor Euille, Vice Mayor Donley and Council Members:

We are writing to ask you to pass the amendment to Alexandria's leash law. The City Council rightly amended the leash law to require physical leashes on dogs in public spaces and to prohibit shock collars as a form of leash or physical restraint.

We are trainers with Fur-Get Me Not, a local award-winning dog training, doggie daycare, pet sitting and dog walking company. Our dog training school is in Shirlington, just over the Alexandria border, and many of our clients are Alexandria residents and walk their dogs in Alexandria. Fur-Get Me Not's mission is to develop well-mannered family dogs and to give rescues and shelter dogs the best start possible. Fur-Get Me Not uses positive training methods based in science and founded on learning theory and animal behavior. Our trainers are on the forefront of the latest in training and behavior. We teach people in a fun and inspiring way how to motivate their dogs to perform desired behaviors, and we use no force or coercion. All of our lead trainers are Certified Professional Dog Trainers who have been independently tested on their knowledge and skills through the Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers ([www.ccpdt.com](http://www.ccpdt.com)), an independent certification program for professional dog trainers. Three of our lead trainers are among the very first CPDT-KSA ("knowledge and skills assessed") certified trainers in the country.

We understand that the question before the City Council is what kind of leash will qualify as "physical restraint" under Alexandria's leash law. We realize that the specific type of training that residents seek for their dogs is not the heart of the issue, because the amendment does not go so far as to ban a type of training or training tool.

We see the issue of whether the shock collar should qualify as a leash under the Alexandria leash law as a crucial decision for the safety of the public and the well-being of the dogs in the community. Leash laws ensure that a dog's owner is always within reach of the dog and can keep physical control of the dog at all times. The ability to handle a leash requires a minimum skill set that most dog owners can fulfill. We give a great deal of credit to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the City's Animal Control Department for raising this issue. They have the knowledge and experience to be able to appropriately assess the best course of action on this issue.

We feel very strongly that the City Council and the public should be educated about shock collars and punishment-based training and its pitfalls before giving it general approval such as

in this case. Persons using this type of equipment need to be highly skilled, as it may have broader and rather serious implications on the community as a whole, if people are not trained on how to use the equipment correctly. Well-respected animal behaviorists and trainers, including Dr. Ian Dunbar, Dr. Richard Polsky, Dr. Sophia Yin, Dr. Karen Overall, and Pat Miller have all expressed concern with the lack of effectiveness and potential for harm using shock collars, in addition to the risk of eliciting aggressive behaviors. It, therefore, would necessitate that the City required some type of proof of an owner's training skills, in order to properly utilize this kind of equipment while at the same time keeping the citizens in the community safe. The City is understandably reluctant to take on that kind of liability.

These are the core criteria for when using punishment in training, skills few pet dog owners possess:

- The **timing** must be perfect or you can easily and accidentally punish a completely different behavior than you had intended.
- The **right intensity** of punishment has to be accomplished. If too mild so that the punishment has to be repeated many times, the dog can become desensitized. If too strong, you risk eliciting fearful and aggressive behaviors.
- The **correct association** between the dog's unwanted behavior and the punishment must be established from the beginning and each and every time. The trainer has to take great care the punishment is not connected to the trainer himself, or another dog, child or car that happens to be nearby.
- **Consistency** is key – every time the dog does the unwanted behavior the punishment has to be allotted.

Not only must a pet owner be skilled to be able to utilize a shock collar appropriately, but in addition, people who are afraid of dogs deserve to know that the dog they are encountering is on a physical leash. One does not have to have knowledge about what a leash is to immediately understand that a dog on leash is secured and his ability to approach limited. This is not the case with the shock collar where a person has to have special knowledge about dog training methods in order to determine that a dog on a shock collar is in fact "limited in his ability to approach." One also have to take into account other dogs in the community who may be afraid of, or reactive to, unleashed dogs and deserve to see that dogs are on a visible leash.

So in short, the physical leash: (1) does not elicit pain that can create aggression, (2) can be successfully used by every dog owner no matter the skill level, (3) will give people who are not familiar with dogs a sense of safety because they can see the leash, and (4) will prevent the potential side effects of dogs on shock collars who were not trained properly on them running at large and harassing the community. Simply put, a shock collar is merely a training tool, which even the manufacturers do not consider to be a leash. We would hope that people would choose training tools that do not involve coercion or pain, but the amendment merely asks all dog owners, no matter how they have trained their dogs, to have a physical leash in public.

On November 12, 2011, the City Council unanimously passed the ordinance amending Alexandria's leash laws to disapprove of shock collars as leashes. We urge you to pass the

amendment to the leash law once again – clarifying that shock collars are not leashes under the leash law, and requiring a physical visible leash. Requiring a physical, visible leash in public spaces is the only sure way to guarantee control and safety for Alexandria’s human and canine residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

*Tammy Rosen*

Tammy Rosen, CPDT-KSA, Owner, President and Lead Trainer

*Vivian Leven Shoemaker*

Vivian Leven Shoemaker, CPDT-KSA, Dog Training Director and Lead Trainer

*Roz Ferber*

Roz Ferber, CPDT-KSA and Lead Trainer

*Kimberley Kamphaus*

Kimberley Kamphaus, CPDT-KA and Lead Trainer

*Jacqueline Maffucci*

Jacqueline Maffucci, Assistant Trainer

*David Garemore*

David Garemore, Assistant Trainer

*Heidi Meinzer*

Heidi Meinzer, Assistant Trainer

Fur-Get Me Not Dog Training School  
4120 South Four Mile Run Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22206