

Herdi Menzer
818 W. Timber Branch Pkwy

This amendment is necessary

First, if dogs are not trained, a physical leash is an absolute must. If dogs are trained, a physical leash is the best backup possible in case something happens, and the best way to intervene if there is a dog fight or another issue. It is also a courtesy for dogs or people who are fearful and for our hard-working animal control officers.

Second, the amendment will not hurt business. Most trainers and training centers now don't use electronic collars, but for those that still do, nothing in the amendment outlaws electronic collars and the training exception allows their use during training sessions.

The only thing this amendment does is to ask everyone to have a physical leash on their dogs when in public areas. Electronic collars are not meant to be leashes - they are mere training tools that ~~some~~ some choose to use.

I urge the City Council to adopt this amendment to promote public safety and responsible dog ownership in this urban area known for being one of the most dog-friendly in the country.

Final Member
818 W. Timber Street, King
This Government is necessary

1. If not trained - essential

if trained - backup

- courtesy for other dogs, people, ADA
- way to help if your dog is attacked

2. Will not hurt business

- most trainers don't use creative methods or shock collars

- those that do, still learn

3. Only thing this ordinance does is asks you to put physical leash on

your dog in public spaces

• training ^{tool} ~~is~~ not a leash

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 ORONO ST Alex. 22314
2 CARLOS MESSIAS	529 ORONO ST Alex. 22314
3 Rebecca Brakke	1301 S Scott St Apt 337 Arlington 22204
4 MARCO MULLER	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 Suggs	4177 S Four Mile Run Arl Va
8 Karen Dwyer	119 Harvard Street Alexandria VA
9 Gabe Mejias	624 529 Oronoco St Alex VA 22314
10 Melinda Lyle	5235 Tanager Ln Alex, VA 22304
11 Patricia LeGner	821 Queen St Alex VA 22314
12 Kathy McEffe	1405 Chapel Hill Rd Alex VA 22304
13 AMINA KHAN	3151 JAMIESON AVE UNIT 611 ALEXANDRIA VA 22314
14 LAURA KANAL	801 N. PITT ST ALEX
15 Deb Antonia	3812 Griff. in Place Alex 22304
16 BT Clark	614 S Royal St Alex VA 22314
17 Elizabeth Sch...	4401 G. ... VA 22314
18 Katherine Holmes	2420 27th Court South Apt 207 Arlington VA 22206
19 Peter Corey	4626 Latrobe VA Alex 22314
20 Colleen Fisher	1112 KING STREET, Alex. Va.
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 Diaz	280 S. Whiting St #110 22304
27 Marianne Marzo	630 Pompadour Walk, Alex 22314
28 Kate Golz	6060 WOODMONT RD Alex 22301
29 Elizabeth Gomez Verescu	4702 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 Kornblut	408 E MASON AVE Alex VA 22301
CATHY ...	501 PRINCESS ST ALEX 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 Mary Ruth Calhoun 4 E Walnut St
- 2 Barbara Draughon 140 Lynhaven Dr. 22305
- 3 Phebe Brown 828 South Pitt St 22314
- 4 Connie Spera 4434 Pembroke Village Dr ALEXVA 22309
- 5 Lorna Dressendorfer 602 Bashford Lane #2221 Alex VA 22314
- 6 Stephanie Kocha 5810 Craig St Springfield VA 22150
- 7 Cheryl Sudubienew 609 A. Washington Blvd Va 22304
- 8 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 1601 DuPont Alex. VA 22314
- 9 Paige Jones 404 N. Pitt St
- 10 Tassler 305 CONSTITUTION NE WASH DC 20002
- 11 Brian McClelland 1239 Patton Road, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
- 12 Roy Cordell 6209 Cool Valley Ct. Alexandria 22310
- 13 Sharon E. Ruzicka 2067 Pine Woods Ct 22315-
- 14 ~~Jill Spina~~ 306 N Fairfax 22314
- 15 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 681 N. ALFRED ST. 22314
- 16 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 701 FONTAINE ST ALEX 22302
- 17 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 302 Prince St.
- 18 Katie Ballard 519 Tobacco Quay 22314
- 19 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 1226 ORONO ST 22314
- 20 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 310 N Alfred St 22314
- 21 ~~Ann J. Parnell~~ 5108 Donovan Dr #102 22304
- Red & Blue 22 Mickey & DIANNA CAMPAGNA 719 S. ST. ASAPH ST. 22314
- 23 REEVE REYMOND 1209 MICHIGAN CT
- 24 Sally G. Gey 1100 Prince St. 22234
- 25 DORNA DAVIS 60816 Tiddle Way, LOFTON VA 22079
- 26 CHRIS MARSTON 110 SHOOTERS CT, ALEX VA 22314
- 27 NANCY KLINE 1016 1/2 Oronoco St. Alex VA 22314
- 28 Melissa Russel 317 S. Columbus, Alexandr 22314
- 29 Dale G. B.B. 211 Walford St 22314
- 30
- 31
- 32

Jackie Henderson

From: Gayle Randol <gkrandol@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 21, 2012 2:07 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: Dogs must be on physical leashes!
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu Jun 21, 2012 14:06:57] Message ID: [40257]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Gayle
Last Name: Randol
Street Address: 3 Franklin
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703-706-5757
Email Address: gkrandol@comcast.net
Subject: Dogs must be on physical leashes!

In the Alexandria Gazette packet of June 14-20, 2012, on page 15, there is an article about the possibility that our city council could vote to weaken the current leash law and allow citizens to use only electronic dog collars.

A few years ago, the current law requiring dogs to be "under physical restraint," i.e. on a physical leash, was

Comments: debated extensively, with plenty of examples demonstrating that electronic collars and "voice control" by a dog owner are not nearly as effective as leashes. The council made the correct decision; dogs must be on a leash and under physical control of the owner at all times when they are outside of a dog park. That decision should stand and NOT be changed. Electronic collars are NOT as effective as a physical

leash in controlling dogs.

I strongly support EXCLUDING electronic dog
collars as a means of physical restraint.

Jackie Henderson

From: Daniel and Christine Bernstein <djbernstein@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 9:59 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 Dog Leash ordinance
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Wed Jun 13, 2012 09:58:59] Message ID: [40046]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Daniel and Christine
Last Name: Bernstein
Street Address: 121 Princess St.
City: Alexandria
State: Va
Zip: 22314
Phone:
Email Address: djbernstein@comcast.net
Subject: Electronic Dog Leash ordinance

We will be out of town this weekend and therefore will not be able to speak on this issue at the council hearing on Saturday. These are a few of our thoughts.

I support Joy Wilson and her Animal Control officers who wish to limit the use of electronic leashes in our city. Not only are these electric shock collars harmful to the dogs, but they are ineffective. The

Comments: majority of professional dog trainers disapprove of these collars. Pat Miller, a nationally recognized dog Trainer is quoted as saying:

"Shock collars give a false sense of security and control to the person pushing the button. Some dogs will continue on their mission despite the pain of the shock and the pain only aggravates and arouses them further. if a dog's intent is to approach another dog or person, not

only may he continue to
do so despite the shocks, but his initially

friendly intent, if it was that, may change to aggression as he

associates the presence of the dog or person with the cause of the
pain"

Many residents of Alexandria are afraid of dogs. They should

not have to walk on our streets in fear that
an off-leash dog will attack

them or their children. Even dog owners who walk their dogs on a leash

share
this same fear that their dog might be attacked when they see a dog
without a leash approaching them.

The dog trainer exception to this

ordinance is a reasonable compromise for the competing interests on
this

issue., although I personally believe that the business owner proponents
of

electronic shock collars
are focused on marketing a product for

commercial gain.

Please support our animal control officers. We do not

want to have a tragic situation where a child or
small dog is mauled by

an off-leash dog whose owner says that "I pressed the button and gave

the dog an
electric shock, but he would not stop. sorry.

Jackie Henderson

From: Carlos and Sandy Mejias <mejias_2@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 9:23 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: e-collar ordinance
Attachments: 863b79d7e2879f5035f415ad55efe30c.docx; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Jun 11, 2012 21:23:27] Message ID: [40001]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Carlos and Sandy
Last Name: Mejias
Street Address: 529 Oronoco St.
City: Alexandria
State: Va.
Zip: 22306
Phone: 703 836-7643
Email Address: mejias_2@msn.com
Subject: e-collar ordinance
Comments:
Attachment: 863b79d7e2879f5035f415ad55efe30c.docx

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

Jackie Henderson

From: John Brockhouse <bbrockva@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 10:40 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 Approval
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu Jun 07, 2012 22:40:22] Message ID: [39948]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: John
Last Name: Brockhouse
Street Address: 818 W. Timber Branch Pkwy
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-403-9213
Email Address: bbrockva@gmail.com
Subject: Leash Law Amendment Approval

Comments: I have lived in Alexandria for over 15 years and am a dog owner. I want to know that all dogs will be on physical leashes at all times in Alexandria's public areas. Given the daily interaction of dogs and humans in Alexandria's public spaces, requiring a physical leash helps promote a safe atmosphere for all. The simplest way to know a dog is under its owner's control is to see that it's on a physical leash. Please vote to approve the amendment to the leash law to require physical leashes on all dogs in Alexandria's public spaces.

Jackie Henderson

From: Heidi Meinzer <meinzerh@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 10:25 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: Please Vote for the Amendment to Alexandria's Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu Jun 07, 2012 22:24:36] Message ID: [39947]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Heidi
Last Name: Meinzer
Street Address: 818 West Timber Branch Parkway
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 7035254000
Email Address: meinzerh@gmail.com
Subject: Please Vote for the Amendment to Alexandria's Leash Law
I'm writing to encourage you to vote for the amendment to Alexandria's leash law, which will require actual, physical leashes on all dogs in public spaces. I'm proud of Alexandria's reputation as one of the most dog friendly communities in the country. I've lived in Alexandria since 1997, and have shared the company of several dogs throughout that time.

Comments: I've worked hard to train my dogs with gentle, scientifically proven, positive reinforcement methods. But no matter how well trained my dog is, I keep my dogs on a physical leash in public at all times. I understand that this is my duty as a responsible dog owner, no matter how well trained my dog is, and no matter what methods of training I have used to train my dog. The leash law requires a dog to be "physically restrained" and "under control." An actual, physical leash

makes it easy
to tell that a dog is being “physically restrained,” and helps to keep a
dog “under control.”
An electronic collar simply cannot give the same
guarantees – and manufacturers of electronic collars
specify that the
collars are mere training devices that are not meant to substitute as
leashes. And if a
person is not trained correctly about how to use an
electronic collar, the results can be disastrous.
Even if dogs are
well-trained, using a physical leash is an act of courtesy towards other
human and canine
residents and visitors, and towards our hard working
animal control officers. For ease of enforcement,
our Animal Control
officers deserve a bright line rule regarding what is “physical restraint”
under the
leash law. And this requirement of an actual, physical leash
will make it easier for everyone to keep their
dogs under control as
well. If a fight were to break out, and one dog had an electronic collar
instead of a
leash, it would make breaking up that fight much more
difficult than if both dogs were leashed.
All human and canine residents
and visitors in the City deserve to know that all dogs will be on a
physical
leash in public. Alexandria is simply too densely populated not
to require physical leashes. And
Alexandria, as one of America’s most
dog-friendly communities, should be a leader in promoting owner
responsibility and public safety with dogs. Please vote to approve the
amendment to the leash law to
require physical leashes on all dogs in
Alexandria’s public spaces.

Jackie Henderson

From: Jennifer Pinto <jmulligan11@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 2:36 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: Alexandria Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Wed Jun 06, 2012 14:35:33] Message ID: [39919]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jennifer
Last Name: Pinto
Street Address: 5715 Lawsons Hill Ct
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22310
Phone: 216-534-3277
Email Address: jmulligan11@gmail.com
Subject: Alexandria Leash Law
Electonic collars are not leashes. For the safety of the public and are four legged friends, it should be required that all dogs be on a leash when outside of their homes or fenced in yards. Is it too much to ask that they also all have ID tags on? Maybe this time around, but consider it for the future.
Comments:
Thanks, Jennifer Pinto

Jackie Henderson

From: Lisa Antonelli <greenock1901@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 3:18 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 in Alexandria
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Wed Jun 06, 2012 15:17:52] Message ID: [39922]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Lisa
Last Name: Antonelli
Street Address: 306 Cloudes Mill Way
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-823-1832
Email Address: greenock1901@gmail.com
Subject: Leash Law in Alexandria
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
Comments: 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 very

much,

Lisa Antonelli

Jackie Henderson

From: Sandy Yamamoto <vze2tytw@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 12:03 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: Electronic collar ordinance
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Wed Jun 06, 2012 12:03:24] Message ID: [39914]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Sandy
Last Name: Yamamoto
Street Address: 502 N. Naylor Street
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-915-0229
Email Address: vze2tytw@verizon.net
Subject: Electronic collar ordinance

Hello, my name is Sandy Yamamoto, a 30-year West End resident and long-time volunteer and Board member of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. I spoke before Council last fall when you unanimously (and properly) approved the "leash law" ordinance which determined that electronic collars did not qualify as physical restraints within our fair City. Having attended one of the "interested parties" meetings, it became readily apparent that some of the opposition feels a sense of entitlement to be excluded from and/or wants you to simply nullify the passed ordinance. One person actually requested that the City consider having one of the public parks closed to pedestrian traffic during certain hours so that that person could utilize the park while their dog wore an electronic collar – rather than utilize one of the many designated dog parks. How absurd! When walking our dogs, I should be able to expect that all other dogs being walked are under

Comments:

the physical control of their guardian/owner. Without a visual recognition of a leash, there is no way to be reasonably assured of that fact.

Unintended "escapes" of dogs from yards, etc., create more than enough "dogs-running-at-large" incidents without having electronically collared dogs which may choose to ignore an owner-administered shock and cause harm

to themselves (from traffic, for example) or others.

The need for the

ordinance is simply a matter of public safety. I am hopeful that it will not take an unfortunate incident (i.e., a mauling or bite by a dog wearing an electronic collar with the resultant potential for litigation and an expensive judgment against the City) for Council to once again act properly

and expeditiously on this matter

The hard-working Animal Control

Officers face many challenges in their daily duties and giving them this extra tool will only help to promote public welfare – for humans and animals alike.

As a proud property-owning, tax-paying City resident in a locale renowned for being "dog friendly", I urge you to once again enact the ordinance.

Jackie Henderson

From: Deidre Schexnayder <dschexnayder@vno.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 12:33 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 ordinance - electronic collars
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Wed Jun 06, 2012 12:33:13] Message ID: [39915]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Deidre
Last Name: Schexnayder
Street Address: 400 Madison Street Apt 103
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 703 963 8194
Email Address: dschexnayder@vno.com
Subject: Leash law ordinance - electronic collars

My name is Deidre Schexnayder, a resident of Olde Towne Alexandria, a long-time volunteer and Board member of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. I am in support of the Lease Law Ordinance that prohibits the use of electronic collars as physical restraint for dogs.

When walking my dog, I expect that all other dogs walking with their owners are under similar physical control, on a leash, as my dog. Without a visual recognition of a leash, there is no way to be reasonably assured of that fact.

The need for the ordinance is simply a matter of public safety. The hard-working Animal Control Officers face many challenges in their daily duties and giving them this extra tool will only help to promote public welfare – for humans and animals alike.

I urge you to once again enact the ordinance.

Jackie Henderson

From: Scott Maier <stmaier@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 1:15 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 Restraints
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu Jan 12, 2012 13:15:13] Message ID: [35957]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Scott
Last Name: Maier
Street Address: 707 Lyles Lane
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22314
Phone: 7035481525
Email Address: stmaier@gmail.com
Subject: Electronic Dog Restraints

On Tuesday January 10, Alexandria Animal Control came to the park located on Carpenter Dr. in the Potomac Greens neighborhood and posted a reminder about an ordinance that excludes electronic collars as a physical restraint for dogs.

Looking at the City Counsel minutes from December 17, 2011, it appears that this ordinance was rescinded. I find it extremely problematic that Animal Control is not aware of this and appears to be trying to

Comments: enforce an ordinance that no longer exists.

Please let me know if I have misread the minutes. Otherwise, I think it is important that Animal Control as well as local Alexandria Police are made aware that the electronic collar being excluded as a restraint is no longer a law.

Further, I find it troublesome that this ordinance was passed in the first place. Alexandria has consistently been ranked nationally as one of the most dog friendly cities in the United States and this proposed

ordinance would greatly diminish this standing.

Sincerely,

Scott

Maier

Jackie Henderson

From: Jeannette Louise Smith <jeannettelouise@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 04, 2012 7:18 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: Alexandria Leash Law and the Effect on Visitors and Residents
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon Jun 04, 2012 19:18:14] Message ID: [39869]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Jeannette Louise
Last Name: Smith
Street Address: 5036 22nd St S
City: Arlington
State: VA
Zip: 22206-1003
Phone: 703-931-8146
Email Address: jeannettelouise@yahoo.com
Subject: Alexandria Leash Law and the Effect on Visitors and Residents
Esteemed Mayor and City Council:

My name is Jeannette; I am an Animal

Advocacy Writer for Examiner.com. I recently published my third
article

on the Leash Law Debate in the City of Alexandria. Please feel welcome
to

read:

[http://www.examiner.com/article/alexandria-leash-law-debate-nears-
end-city-council-votes-on-june-16](http://www.examiner.com/article/alexandria-leash-law-debate-nears-end-city-council-votes-on-june-16)

Comments: I am thankful that The City Council is

about to vote on the leash law and highly encourage you follow the
voice

of reason and experience of Joy Wilson, Director of Alexandria Animal

Control who originally
proposed the amendment to state, without

exception: "An electronic collar or other similar electronic
device does

not qualify as a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint."

As

with my other articles, I am planning to highly promote the subject throughout the National and International Animal Welfare Community. This is an extremely important topic and your vote will have resounding implications on many communities.

Thank you for your valuable time.

Respectfully,
Jeannette Louise

Smith
<http://www.examiner.com/animal-advocacy-3-in-arlington/jeannette-smith>

th

Jackie Henderson

From: Sheri Herren <sheri.herren@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 9:40 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: Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 09:39:39] Message ID: [39881]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Sheri
Last Name: Herren
Street Address: 1445 28th St. S., Apt. #1
City: Arlington
State: Virginia
Zip: 22206
Phone: 7032998094
Email Address: sheri.herren@gmail.com
Subject: Leash Law
I live in Arlington but work in Alexandria. I am a responsible dog owner
and I volunteer at the Animal Welfare
League of Alexandria. An electronic
Comments: collar or other similar electronic device does not qualify as a leash, lead
or other means of physical restraint. Without exception.
Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Meg Allan Cole <megallan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 10:00 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: Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 10:00:28] Message ID: [39882]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Meg

Last Name: Allan Cole

Street Address: 800 Enderby Drive

City: Alexandria

State: Virginia

Zip: 22302

Phone:

Email Address: megallan@gmail.com

Subject: Leash Law

Please pass the leash law. It is incredibly dangerous to every single dog in Alexandria to not require each and every one to be on a leash. Even the most well-trained dog is an animal and has instincts that over-ride even the most in-depth, rigorous training and obedience. I have seen dogs get hit by cars in Alexandria because of this and am shocked and appalled that there is a chance there will not be a law requiring each and every dog to be on a leash. Those electronic leashes are proven to not work. I can send

Comments:

you countless dog trainers who swear that they are useless and dangerous to

dogs. Please show your concern and care for animals by passing the leash

law.

I will follow-up and see who voted for what and remember this next time I am at the polls.

Thank you.

Megan Allan Cole

Jackie Henderson

From: James Banks
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 9:33 AM
To: City Council; City Council Aides
Cc: Rashad Young; Bruce Johnson; Meghan Roberts
Subject: FW: COA Contact Us: Alexandria Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Vice-Mayor & Members of Council,

Please find enclosed for your information a COA regarding the leash law.

Jim

James L. Banks, Jr.
City Attorney
301 King Street, Suite 1300
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-746-3750
703-838-4810 (Fax)

From: Jeannette Louise Smith [<mailto:jeannettelouise@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 9:28 AM
To: James Banks; Dorothy Juchnewicz; Robin Wilson
Subject: COA Contact Us: Alexandria Leash Law

COA Contact Us: City Attorney James L. Banks, Jr.

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 09:28:19] Message ID: [39879]

Issue Type: James L. Banks, Jr.
First Name: Jeannette Louise
Last Name: Smith
Street Address: 5036 22nd ST S
City: Arlington
State: VA
Zip: 22206-1003
Phone: 703-931-8146
Email Address: jeannettelouise@yahoo.com
Subject: Alexandria Leash Law
Esteemed City Attorney James L. Banks, Jr.
My name is Jeannette; I am an
Comments: Animal Advocacy Writer for Examiner.com. I recently published my third
article on the Leash Law Debate in the City of Alexandria. Please feel
welcome to

read:

<http://www.examiner.com/article/alexandria-leash-law-debate-nears-end-city-council-votes-on-june-16>

I am thankful The City Council is

about to vote on the leash law and highly encourage Alexandria Officials

to follow the voice of reason and experience of Joy Wilson, Director of

Alexandria Animal Control who originally proposed the amendment to state,

without exception: "An electronic collar or other similar electronic

device does not qualify as a leash, lead or other means of physical restraint."

As with my other articles, I am planning to highly promote

the subject throughout the National and International Animal Welfare

Community. This is an extremely important topic; the vote will have

resounding implications in many communities.

Thank you for your

valuable time.

Respectfully,
Jeannette Louise Smith

Jackie Henderson

From: Nila Jackson <nilakayjackson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 11:15 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: Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 11:15:26] Message ID: [39886]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Nila
Last Name: Jackson
Street Address: 5800 Quantrell Ave. #718
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22312
Phone: 202-421-9023
Email Address: nilakayjackson@gmail.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 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
Comments: 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.

Thank you.

Jackie Henderson

From: Raighne Delaney <raighned@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:14 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: Amendment to Lease Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 13:14:20] Message ID: [39893]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Raighne
Last Name: Delaney
Street Address: 2507 Davis Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: Virginia
Zip: 22302
Phone: 703-838-0390
Email Address: raighned@comcast.net
Subject: Amendment to Lease Law
I support the amendment to the leash law proposed by the Animal Welfare League and the City's Animal Control Department.
Comments: While a shock collar
is recognized as a training device, at least by some, it is not really a
leash.

Jackie Henderson

From: Lori Murphy <lkliwer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 1:31 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 Vote
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 13:31:14] Message ID: [39894]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Lori

Last Name: Murphy

Street Address: 314 E. Mason Ave.

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22301

Phone: 703-627-6751

Email Address: lkliwer@hotmail.com

Subject: Leash Law Vote

I write in support of the leash law and to request you vote for the proposal on June 16th. As a dog owner, I believe owners should use a physical leash when they have their dog in any public space - unless that public space is a sanctioned dog park, where off-leash is expressly permitted. Our animal control officers deserve a bright line rule to enforce the leash law and to require a physical leash. It is my preference

Comments: that a leash be required, rather than an electronic collar.

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.

Lori Murphy

Jackie Henderson

From: Karen Zent <karenzent@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 3:32 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 Laws - Support Amendment banning shock collars
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 15:32:24] Message ID: [39895]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Karen

Last Name: Zent

Street Address: 907 S ST ASAPH ST

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22314

Phone: 7038366049

Email Address: karenzent@comcast.net

Subject: Leash Laws - Support Amendment banning shock collars

As a dog owner who walks a beagle on-leash twice a day in Old Town, it is

very unsettling and sometimes threatening to encounter a dog off-leash.

Allowing electronic collars to meet the terms of the leash laws makes it

impossible for me to tell if an approaching dog is running free and a

potential danger or is under control. The purpose of the leash law is to

keep other pedestrians and their pets safe. Encountering a dog without a

Comments:

visible leash puts the burden of keeping myself and my pet safe on me,

instead of on each dog owner.

Similarly, there have been times when

my dog has been under a veterinarian's care, and I have been advised to

keep him away from other dogs. it has happened where a dog being walked

with the aid of an electric collar has approached my dog before I can

alert the owner that they should not approach.

Determining that only

physical leashes meet the leash law requirements protects the health and

safety of

all dogs and pet owners.

Jackie Henderson

From: Barbara Cole <barbarakcole@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2012 9:15 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/leash law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue Jun 05, 2012 21:15:13] Message ID: [39903]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Barbara
Last Name: Cole
Street Address: 5300 Holmes Run Parkway
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-370-4549
Email Address: barbarakcole@gmail.com
Subject: electronic dog collars/leash law
In the densely populated West End there are enough problems with pet owners who actually have their dogs on leashes. I cannot imagine the situation if

Comments: you allow electronic collars to be substituted for leashes. This truly is a "no-brainer." Please use common sense and stick with your original decision. Dogs need to be leashed.

Jackie Henderson

From: Laura Genuario <JGenuario@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2012 8:13 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: Leash law proposal
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Wed Jun 06, 2012 08:12:50] Message ID: [39907]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Laura

Last Name: Genuario

Street Address: 8205 Mack Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA

Zip: 22308

Phone: 703-660-9276

Email Address: JGenuario@cox.net

Subject: Leash law proposal

Although I am not a citizen of the City of Alexandria, I am a professional dog walker and walk dogs five days out of each work week within the city limits, specifically in the Old Town area.

I always walk dogs on leash

and feel confident of my safety and the dogs' safety with the dogs on a physical leash. The dogs I walk are well trained and well mannered around

people and other dogs, and they are very happy to wear their collars and leashes. The leash enables a dog to be outdoors in a crowded urban

Comments: environment; the collar's visible presence signals human beings that they are safe, their infants in strollers are safe, toddlers walking near the dog are safe, etc. Seeing an off-leash dog on an E-collar is a threatening sight regardless of whether the dog intends harm to people or dogs he approaches.

Dogs are wonderful creatures, but even the most gentle dog

can become aggressive without much warning or become a victim of another

dog's sudden aggression. Leashes are essential to help prevent or

minimize

any such incident. It is the simplest and easiest remedy, as well as the most responsible act, to require a physical leash on a dog when that dog is

in a public place.

Thanks very much for passing this leash law.

Jackie Henderson

From: Veronica Sanchez <veronica8472@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, June 01, 2012 9:50 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: Proposed Leash Law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri Jun 01, 2012 21:49:42] Message ID: [39830]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Veronica
Last Name: Sanchez
Street Address: 1009 Frederick St. SW
City: Vienna
State: Va
Zip: 22180
Phone: 703-281-1373
Email Address: veronica8472@verizon.net
Subject: Proposed Leash Law

Alexandria is poised to be a leader in responsible dog ownership by requiring physical leashes any time dogs are in public spaces. This is so important, especially in a place like Alexandria that is so urban and known as one of the most dog-friendly places in the country. No matter how well trained the dog is, and no matter what methods that were used to train the dog, owners should have their dogs on physical leashes. The Animal Control officers deserve a bright line rule requiring a physical leash. Shock

Comments: collars are not meant to be leashes. And dogs deserve to be treated and trained in a way that does not involve force, pain or intimidation. Alexandria is known for being a dog-friendly community, and should therefore be a leader in promoting owner responsibility. Show the rest of the country that you are such a leader, and vote to approve the amendment to the leash law to require physical leashes on all dogs in Alexandria's public spaces.

Jackie Henderson

From: Carla Gregor <cgregor@cov.com>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 10:58 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: shock collars are not leashes or physical restraint under Alexandria's leash law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 18, 2012 10:57:48] Message ID: [39550]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Carla
Last Name: Gregor
Street Address: 7511 Ashby Lane, #F
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22315
Phone: 703-313-0652
Email Address: cgregor@cov.com
Subject: shock collars are not leashes or physical restraint under Alexandria's leash law
I have a service dog that I take down to Old Town Alexandria all the time.
When dogs are running FREE due to not being restrained properly it startles me and my service dog which is NOT good because I could get hurt. If shock collars are allowed in Alexandria, this will be very dangerous for me and my well being since I use a service dog.
In the past, I have walked
Comments: dogs for a dog service company and have had a dog in Crystal City run up to the dog I was walking and I yelled at the owner to put his dog on a leash ... because that's the law in Fairfax County. The owner said he had a shock collar and for me to mind my own damn business. I cannot tell you how dangerous to dog owners and their dogs who are on leashes not knowing if the running dog is aggressive or not. I find this appalling to say the least.

Jackie Henderson

From: Joy Wilson <jwilson@alexandrianimals.org>
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2012 1:22 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: Animal Control cases involving electronic collars
Attachments: 83222c5b607f644c14e5f0150321c435.pdf; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Fri May 18, 2012 13:21:49] Message ID: [39554]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Joy
Last Name: Wilson
Street Address: 4101 Eisenhower Avenue
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22304
Phone: 703-746-5657
Email Address: jwilson@alexandrianimals.org
Subject: Animal Control cases involving electronic collars
Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council,

I am forwarding to you the

most recent cases that my department has dealt with involving dogs trained

on electronic collars, including an affidavit from a former citizen that details an incident that occurred while he was living in the City of Alexandria. These Animal Control cases are being submitted in addition to the two incidents previously reported by citizens directly to City Council.

Comments: I fully understand the controversy with the ongoing debate over electronic shock collars being used as physical restraint. We realize that the citizens using e-collars feel they are being singled out due to the manner in which they train their dogs. The amendment to the City's leash law was never intended to address training methods, only physical restraint in public areas. The goal is to clearly define the terms "leash" and "physical restraint" to eliminate ambiguity and confusion, and to preserve public safety.

City Council asked that City staff and members of the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and Animal Control meet with the concerned citizens to come to a resolution on the amendment. Three public meetings have occurred to date, and most of the time spent in these meetings was dedicated to convincing the citizens that the City of Alexandria and Animal Control are making no judgments on the training methods utilized by citizens. The fact is that electronic collars are training tools and nothing more. They are neither designed nor intended to be used as physical restraint. Regardless of the training method a dog owner chooses to employ, we ask that all dogs be restrained on a physical leash while in public.

During the December public hearing, Alexandria business owners asked for some consideration in the amendment so that they may continue to hold training classes. The revised amendment that will be brought back for your consideration includes exemptions for sanctioned training classes and electronic collar training in City dog parks. We feel this compromise adequately addresses the concerns with the previous amendment that was passed in November.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joy Wilson
Chief Animal Control Officer
Animal Welfare

League of Alexandria

Attachment: 83222c5b607f644c14e5f0150321c435.pdf

Activity Card

A12-005397-1 STRAY/CONF Priority Level: 5 Total Animals: 1 Animal Type: DOG

Activity Address: 1101 JANNEYS LN
Activity Comment: STRAY DOG IS CONFINED NEAR SCHOOL

Owner Information:

P060967 ALEX DERINGER
1198 JANNEYS LN
(703) 283-1104

Caller Information:

P003789 ALEXANDRIA POLICE
3600 WHEELER AVE
ALEXANDRIA VA 22304
(703) 746-4444

A037187

Officer: P999864 GUDAKUNST Clerk: RPORTER

Call Date: 03/17/12 01:18 PM
New Date: 03/17/12 01:18 PM
Dispatch Date: 03/17/12 01:19 PM
Working Date: 03/17/12 01:32 PM
Complete Date: 03/17/12 01:32 PM

Result Codes:

1 IMPND
1 COMP

Memo:

03/17/12 14:21 ACO Gudakunst responded to the call and when he arrived there was a couple with their dog on a leash and a brown and white Bost. Terr. type dog with a green Electronic collar on with no tags. Gudakunst asked if they had ever seen the dog before they stated that no they had not. Gudakunst leashed the dog and offered it water, the dog was not interested in water. Gudakunst scanned for a chip and found one. Gudakunst called the owner and informed her of the incident. She stated that she would be by before close (5pm). DGudakunst8640

03/17/12 15:27 Kennel staff brought back the collar of the animal and gave it to Gudakunst with concerns that the collar was way too tight for a regular collar let alone one with approx. 1/2 inch long. Gudakunst will talk to the owners when they claim the animal. DGudakunst8640

Activity Card

A12-005639-1	INV/OTHER	Priority Level: 5	Total Animals: 1	Animal Type: DOG
Activity Address: 910 GREEN ST Activity Comment: TRUMAN IS ON ELECTRONIC COLLAR, HAS GONE AFTER DOGS AND PEOPLE MULTIPLE TIM				
Owner Information: P017498 SUSAN LABOMBARD 910 GREEN ST (202) 824-0412				
Caller Information: P072894 ESTELLA HERRERA 918 GREEN ST ALEXANDRIA VA 22314 (571) 830-5796				
A037209		21309		
Officer: P999863 JEWEL		Clerk: EJEWEL		
Call Date:	04/23/12 04:59 PM			
New Date:	04/23/12 04:59 PM			
Dispatch Date:	04/23/12 04:59 PM			
Working Date:	04/23/12 05:11 PM			
Complete Date:	04/23/12 05:59 PM			

Result Codes:
1 EDUC
1 COMP

Memo:

04/29/12 12:37 Called Mrs. Herrera for the videos on her phone that she never sent me. Mrs. Herrera stated that someone who lives close to Mrs. Labombard told her that they had Truman euthanized for his behavior. ACO Jewel thanked Mrs. Herrera for the information and advised to give a call back if she hears any updates. (Truman was supposed to go to a behavior/trainer in Maryland - that may be where he is or perhaps they did have him euthanized). EJEWEL 863

04/23/12 19:25 Mrs. Herrera called stating that she and another neighbor were attacked by a lab mix on an electronic collar. Mrs. Herrera stated that this has happened on multiple occasions, the lab goes after both people and dogs. A neighbor has to shut herself in the laundry room of her apartment complex to avoid the dog. ACO Jewel met with Susan Lobombard to discuss the attacks. Mrs. Lobombard stated that yes she does use an electronic collar with her dog and works with the Olde Town School for Dogs. She has been having a lot of problems with Truman concerning stranger suspicion and fear aggression. She stated that if you don't look at or go to pet Truman he is fine, but if a stranger would put their hand down to pet him they most likely get bit. Mrs. Labombard stated that she has been on a waiting list for a behaviorist since January to work with Truman. She was advised to not use an electronic collar on Truman anymore for many reasons (and advised of the ordinance) and was also warned about the dangerous dog ordinance (it seems Truman has come close to hurting someone on a few occasions). ACO Jewel advised to get a high end muzzle to put it on Truman when he is out and about so that 1. People will stay away from the dog and 2. If the dog gets out it cannot bite anyone. ACO Jewel also advised how to find a rescue if need be and or euthanasia as a last, but responsible option. Mrs. Labombard was also advised to license her pets. She stated that she tried to but the check was sent back due to a lack of spay/neuter verification. Mrs. Labombard was given ACO Jewels card to call/email with questions. EJewel863

AFFIDAVIT

Commonwealth of Virginia

City of Virginia Beach

Personally came and appeared, before me, the undersigned Notary the within named individual Charles B. Johnston, who resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia, and makes his statement and General Affidavit upon oath and affirmation of belief and personal knowledge that the following matters, facts, and things set forth are true and correct to the best of his knowledge:

In early 2008 timeframe, when I was living at 209 S. Fayette St, Alexandria, VA, I used to walk my dog (a fawn boxer) down to Misha's Café on Route 1 North. I would get coffee and a bagel, and sit on a bench outside of Mishas. I would tie my dogs leash to the bench and keep it short if anybody was walking by with their pets.

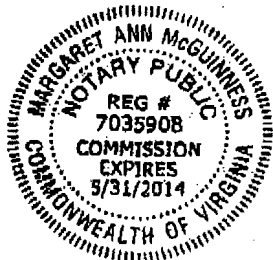
One day, a woman who frequented Misha's was walking with her black German Shepherd without a physical leash. Unbeknownst to me, the dog was on an electronic leash. She instructed the dog to lie down on the sidewalk about ten yards from me and my dog. The dog ignored her command and started coming toward my dog. She yelled at her dog to stop, but he kept coming. I tried to pull my dog back as much as possible, but eventually they got face to face and a fight ensued. She pulled her dog back and I yelled at her "WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THAT DOG ON A LEASH?" She yelled back that he was on a leash (an electronic one). I remember the day distinctly, because I was walking back by Dash's Men's Store (a wonderful shop) and Victor Dash was outside. He remarked about the dust up he saw between the dogs.

I would strongly support a physical leash law in Alexandria. Electronic leashes don't work when two dogs are determined to fight each other.

Dated this May 2, 2012.

Charles B. Johnston
Signature of Affiant

Sworn and subscribed before me this 2nd May 2012.



Margaret A. McGuinness
NOTARY PUBLIC

Jackie Henderson

From: Kathryn Kuhlen <kkuhlen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 12:57 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: proposed leash law amendment
Attachments: db3566d2fbc4355be27d3c674eb0d310.pdf; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Mon May 14, 2012 12:56:52] Message ID: [39439]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Kathryn
Last Name: Kuhlen
Street Address: 2519 Gadsby Pl.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 703-931-2229
Email Address: kkuhlen@yahoo.com
Subject: proposed leash law amendment
This is a revision to a letter I sent last week. At that time, I was under
Comments: a misapprehension as to what the proposed amendment provided. The
substance of my remarks remains the same.
Attachment: db3566d2fbc4355be27d3c674eb0d310.pdf

Kathryn Kuhlen
2519 Gadsby Pl.
Alexandria, VA 22311
kkuhlen@yahoo.com

May 14, 2012

Councilman Frank Fannon IV
Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes
Councilman Rob Krupicka
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
Mayor William D. Euille
Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley
City Manager Rashad Young
City Attorney James Banks

Alexandria City Hall
301 King St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Proposed Leash Law Amendment

Dear Council Members and City Officials:

I am a resident and property owner in the City of Alexandria and a dog owner. Last week I wrote a letter expressing my views on the proposed amendment to Alexandria's leash law. At the time, I was under the mistaken impression that the amendment was designed to permit shock collars to qualify as a substitute for a leash. I have since obtained a copy of the amendment, and learned that it actually is designed to clarify that shock collars do not qualify as a leash substitute.

The current leash law provides that it is unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog to permit his dog to run at large in the city or any public park or playground at any time "unless 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 and which is held by a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog." Article C, Sec. 5-7-31(j); Sec. 5-7-33; Sec.5-7-33.1(a)(b)(c). It would seem obvious from the plain language of the ordinance that shock collars would not meet this requirement. However, apparently that has been called into question, and I therefore support the amendment as a useful clarification of the language and intent of the existing ordinance.

The substantive issues I discussed in my earlier letter still apply, and I repeat them here for your convenience. These issues are: (i) whether shock collars can be deemed as effective as physical restraints and therefore an adequate substitute or analog for a leash, (ii) whether the community at large would be negatively affected if shock collar-wearing dogs were exempted from the leash requirement, (iii) whether the supposed benefits of exempting shock collars from the leash requirement outweigh the costs, and (iv) whether shock collars meet certain other requirements of the ordinance.

Effectiveness: Shock collars operate by the owner transmitting a signal to the collar that activates either a painful shock or, in some instances, a vibration. Both proponents and opponents of shock collars agree on at least one thing, which is that training in the use of such a collar is necessary for it to have any effectiveness at all. This distinguishes its use from that of a leash, which even a lay person unskilled in the techniques of dog training can employ to physically restrain his dog.

Since an untrained, unskilled handler cannot restrain his dog by the use of a shock collar alone, it follows that an exemption from the leash requirement for such devices would require some sort of licensing procedure to measure an owner's training and test his ability to restrain his dog under distracting circumstances by use of the collar (much as drivers must pass a knowledge and proficiency test to operate a motor vehicle).

Before considering whether the expense of such a licensing program should be contemplated, the City might wish to examine the statistics regarding the effectiveness of shock collars, even in the hands of trained owners. I have done some research along these lines, and found that shock collars are less effective than other deterrents in curbing unwanted behaviors. For instance, shock collars used as anti-barking devices are considerably less effective than collars emitting a citronella spray ((89.9% efficacy for citronella, 44.4% for shock).¹ There is also a great deal of anecdotal evidence of dogs running through invisible fences, which employ shock collars. Importantly, current scientific studies in the field of learning theory demonstrate that punishment that relies on the application of pain is likely to be ineffective as a reliable training device, and can in fact be counterproductive. This can be especially problematic in the use of shock collars, for a resentful, pain-maddened dog may well lash out at the nearest person or dog in the vicinity.

¹ Soraya V. Juarbe-Diaz, DVM & Katherine A. Houpt, VMD, PhD, Diplomate ACVB, *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*, May/June 1996.

Effect on community: Does permitting owners of dogs wearing shock collars not to use a leash inconvenience or imperil other dogs and their owners? I think the answer to this can only be yes. In addition to the problem of ineffectiveness discussed above, a person who sees a loose dog does not know if that dog is under any sort of effective control or not. He or she therefore has no choice but to try and avoid the dog altogether, which is difficult in our crowded residential communities. It also is a recipe for disaster should the loose dog approach a dog on leash. Leashed dogs are understandably nervous about loose dogs, knowing that they are at a disadvantage. It would seem unfair to the vast majority of dog owners who comply with the leash laws to be subjected to the stress and danger that would certainly result if the City permitted shock collar owners to allow their dogs to run loose without a leash.

Cost/benefit considerations: The benefits of exempting shock collar dogs from being on leash would be enjoyed only by those relatively few owners who use the devices. And there appears to be only one benefit: the relatively small convenience of not having to use a leash on a walk. Since it would seem equally burdensome to put a shock collar on a dog and carry a transmitter, this convenience is slight. Should such owners argue that they want to allow their dogs a little freedom to sniff and play, this can be accomplished by the use of a long line, which is a physical restraint and does not violate the current leash law.

The costs of exempting shock collar dogs from leash compliance, on the other hand, are many: shock collars have proven to be ineffective in many situations, they require committed training on the part of the owner, dogs can react negatively to them, leash-compliant dog owners are inconvenienced and frightened when encountering a loose dog, and a loose dog that does not respond to a transmitted shock can cause serious distress and injury, even fatalities, to other dogs and people.

From the foregoing it would seem clear that a cost/benefit analysis comes squarely down on the side of not treating owners of dogs wearing shock collars any differently from other owners; that is, that they be required to use a leash or other physical restraint when their dog is out in public.

Other Requirements of the Ordinance: The existing ordinance requiring physical restraint further requires that such physical restraint "is not harmful or injurious to the dog." It would seem that any proposed substitute for actual physical restraint, such as a shock collar, should also meet the test of not being harmful or injurious to the dog. And there is a vast amount of literature describing the many harmful psychological effects of the use of shock collars. Furthermore, while some owners may protest that they only use mild settings on their dogs,

there is currently no prohibition on the degree of shock that may be programmed into shock collars or legally used by an owner. Therefore, there is no practical way for the City to ensure that using a shock collar as a leash substitute meets the test of not being harmful or injurious.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kuhlen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Kuhlen'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jackie Henderson

From: kathryn kuhlen <kkuhlen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 10:05 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: comments on proposed amendment to leash law
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu May 10, 2012 10:04:42] Message ID: [39336]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: kathryn
Last Name: kuhlen
Street Address: 2519 Gadsby Pl.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 703-931-2229
Email Address: kkuhlen@yahoo.com
Subject: comments on proposed amendment to leash law
[I'm not sure my earlier attached letter came through, so I am including
below a cut and paste copy]
Dear Council Members and City
Officials:
I am a resident and property owner in the City of Alexandria
and a dog owner. I heard about the proposed amendment to Alexandria's
leash law and went down to City Hall to attend the public hearing
scheduled
Comments: to consider it on April 12, but when I arrived I found the meeting had been
cancelled. I am therefore writing you this letter to express my
views.
The current leash law provides that it is unlawful for the owner
or custodian of a dog to permit his dog to run at large in the city or any
public park or playground at any time "unless 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 and
which is held by a responsible person capable of physically restraining the

dog." Article C, Sec. 5-7-31(j); Sec. 5-7-33; Sec.5-7-33.1(a)(b)(c).

As I understand the proposed amendment, it would exempt owners of dogs

wearing shock collars from compliance with this ordinance, under the theory

that shock collars, while clearly not "physical restraints," function in the same capacity and are as effective as physical restraints. This letter considers whether shock collars can be deemed as effective as physical restraints, and also addresses the impact on the community at large of adopting the proposed exemption.

Effectiveness: Shock collars operate

by the owner transmitting a signal to the collar that activates either a painful shock or, in some instances, a vibration. Both proponents and opponents of shock collars agree on at least one thing, which is that training in the use of such a collar is necessary for it to have any effectiveness at all. This distinguishes its use from that of a leash, which even a lay person unskilled in the techniques of dog training can employ to physically restrain his dog.

Since an untrained, unskilled

handler cannot restrain his dog by the use of a shock collar, it follows that an exemption from the leash law ordinance for shock collars would require some sort of licensing procedure to measure an owner's training and

test his ability to restrain his dog under distracting circumstances by use of the collar (much as drivers must pass a knowledge and proficiency test to operate a motor vehicle).

Before considering whether the expense of

such a licensing program should be contemplated, the City might wish to examine the statistics regarding the effectiveness of shock collars, even in the hands of trained owners. I have done some research along these lines, and found that shock collars are less effective than other deterrents in curbing unwanted behaviors. For instance, shock collars used

as anti-barking devices are considerably less effective than collars emitting a citronella spray ((89.9% efficacy for citronella, 44.4% for

shock). There is also a great deal of anecdotal evidence of dogs running through invisible fences, which employ shock collars. Importantly, current scientific studies in the field of learning theory demonstrate that punishment that relies on the application of pain is likely to be ineffective as a reliable training device, and can in fact be counterproductive. This can be especially problematic in the use of shock collars, for a resentful, pain-maddened dog may well lash out at the nearest person or dog in the vicinity.

Effect on community: Does

exempting from the leash law owners of dogs wearing shock collars inconvenience or imperil other dogs and their owners? I think the answer to this can only be yes. In addition to the problem of ineffectiveness discussed above, a person who sees a loose dog does not know if that dog is under any sort of effective control or not. He or she therefore has no choice but to try and avoid the dog altogether, which is difficult in our crowded residential communities. It also is a recipe for disaster should the loose dog approach a dog on leash. Leashed dogs are understandably skittish about loose dogs, understanding they are at a disadvantage. It would seem unfair to the vast majority of dog owners who comply with the leash laws to be subjected to the stress and danger that would certainly result if the City permitted shock collar owners to allow their dogs to run loose without a leash.

Cost/benefit considerations: The benefits of

the proposed exemption would be enjoyed only by those relatively few owners who want to use shock collars instead of leashes. And there appears to be only one benefit: the relatively small convenience of not using a leash on a walk. Since it would seem equally burdensome to put a shock collar on a dog and carry a transmitter, this convenience is slight. Should such owners argue that they want to allow their dogs a little freedom to sniff and play, this can be accomplished by the use of a long line, which does not violate the current leash law.

The costs of the proposed exemption,

on the other hand, are many: shock collars have proven to be ineffective in

many situations, they require committed training on the part of the owner, dogs can react negatively to them, leash-compliant dog owners are inconvenienced and frightened when encountering a loose dog, and a loose dog that does not respond to a transmitted shock can cause serious distress and injury, even fatalities, to other dogs and people.

From the

foregoing it would seem clear that a cost/benefit analysis comes squarely down on the side of not approving an exemption to the leash law for owners of dogs wearing shock collars.

It should also be mentioned that the ordinance requiring physical restraint further requires that such physical restraint "is not harmful or injurious to the dog." It would seem that any substitute for such physical restraint, such as the proposed substitute of a shock collar, should also meet the test of not being harmful or injurious to the dog. And there is a vast amount of literature describing the many harmful psychological effects of the use of shock collars. Furthermore, while some owners may protest that they only use mild settings on their dogs, there is currently no prohibition on the degree of shock that may be programmed into shock collars or legally used by an owner. Therefore, there is no practical way for the City to ensure that using a shock collar as a leash substitute meets the test of not being harmful or injurious.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kuhlen

Jackie Henderson

From: Kathryn Kuhlen <kkuhlen@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 9:57 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: proposed amendment to leash law
Attachments: c59341089fa9afa9a14cc0d1ab38483f.PDF; ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Thu May 10, 2012 09:57:08] Message ID: [39335]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members
First Name: Kathryn
Last Name: Kuhlen
Street Address: 2519 Gadsby Pl.
City: Alexandria
State: VA
Zip: 22311
Phone: 703-931-2229
Email Address: kkuhlen@yahoo.com
Subject: proposed amendment to leash law
Attached see my letter expressing views on the proposed amendment to
Comments: Alexandria's leash ordinance.
Attachment: c59341089fa9afa9a14cc0d1ab38483f.PDF

Kathryn Kuhlen
2519 Gadsby Pl.
Alexandria, VA 22311
kkuhlen@yahoo.com

May 10, 2012

Councilman Frank Fannon IV
Councilwoman Alicia R. Hughes
Councilman Rob Krupicka
Councilwoman Redella S. Pepper
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
Mayor William D. Euille
Vice Mayor Kerry J. Donley
City Manager Rashad Young
City Attorney James Banks

Re: Proposed Amendment to Leash Law

Dear Council Members and City Officials:

I am a resident and property owner in the City of Alexandria and a dog owner. I heard about the proposed amendment to Alexandria's leash law and went down to City Hall to attend the public hearing scheduled to consider it on April 12, but when I arrived I found the meeting had been cancelled. I am therefore writing you this letter to express my views.

The current leash law provides that it is unlawful for the owner or custodian of a dog to permit his dog to run at large in the city or any public park or playground at any time "unless 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 and which is held by a responsible person capable of physically restraining the dog." Article C, Sec. 5-7-31(j); Sec. 5-7-33; Sec.5-7-33.1(a)(b)(c).

As I understand the proposed amendment, it would exempt owners of dogs wearing shock collars from compliance with this ordinance, under the theory that shock collars, while clearly not "physical restraints," function in the same capacity and are as effective as physical restraints. This letter considers whether shock collars can be deemed as effective as physical restraints, and also addresses the impact on the community at large of adopting the proposed exemption.

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proponents and opponents of shock collars agree on at least one thing, which is that training in the use of such a collar is necessary for it to have any effectiveness at all. This distinguishes its use from that of a leash, which even a lay person unskilled in the techniques of dog training can employ to physically restrain his dog.

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Effect on community: Does exempting from the leash law owners of dogs wearing shock collars inconvenience or imperil other dogs and their owners? I think the answer to this can only be yes. In addition to the problem of ineffectiveness discussed above, a person who sees a loose dog does not know if that dog is under any sort of effective control or not. He or she therefore has no choice but to try and avoid the dog altogether, which is difficult in our crowded residential communities. It also is a recipe for disaster should the loose dog approach a dog on leash. Leashed dogs are understandably skittish about loose dogs, understanding they are at a disadvantage. It would seem unfair to the vast majority of dog owners who comply with the leash laws to be subjected to the

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stress and danger that would certainly result if the City permitted shock collar owners to allow their dogs to run loose without a leash.

Cost/benefit considerations: The benefits of the proposed exemption would be enjoyed only by those relatively few owners who want to use shock collars instead of leashes. And there appears to be only one benefit: the relatively small convenience of not using a leash on a walk. Since it would seem equally burdensome to put a shock collar on a dog and carry a transmitter, this convenience is slight. Should such owners argue that they want to allow their dogs a little freedom to sniff and play, this can be accomplished by the use of a long line, which does not violate the current leash law.

The costs of the proposed exemption, on the other hand, are many: shock collars have proven to be ineffective in many situations, they require committed training on the part of the owner, dogs can react negatively to them, leash-compliant dog owners are inconvenienced and frightened when encountering a loose dog, and a loose dog that does not respond to a transmitted shock can cause serious distress and injury, even fatalities, to other dogs and people.

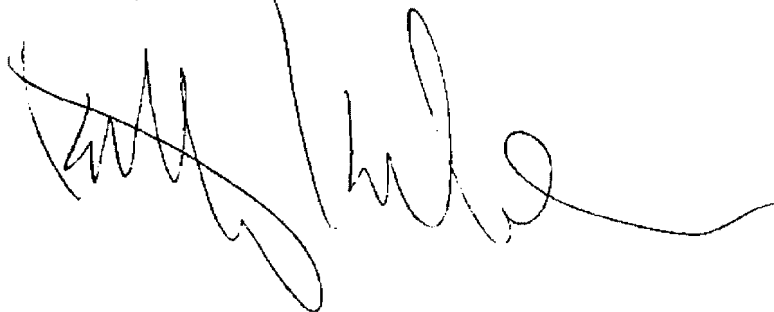
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Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kuhlen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Kuhlen', written in a cursive style.

Jackie Henderson

From: Yvonne Callahan <yvonneweighcallahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2012 10:27 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 leashes
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

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

Time: [Tue May 08, 2012 10:27:17] Message ID: [39262]

Issue Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Council Members

First Name: Yvonne

Last Name: Callahan

Street Address: 735 South Lee Street

City: Alexandria

State: VA - Virginia

Zip: 22314

Phone: 7035351505

Email Address: yvonneweighcallahan@gmail.com

Subject: electronic leashes

Dear Mr. Mayor and members of City Council:

I am writing to you

concerning an issue that has been under consideration for several months

now,
concerning a ban on electronic collars for dogs (e-collars.)
As you

undoubtedly recall, an ordinance was enacted earlier of this year which

banned the use of e collars
in the City. The ordinance was then

Comments: rescinded after it was brought to your attention that the ordinance
would

interfere with dog training programs now in use in Alexandria. In

addition, there were a number of
pet owners, including myself, who were

totally unaware that the city was taking such action with very
little, if

any, notice to the public.
I should explain my use of the e collar. My

Cairn terrier, Jack, was outfitted with an e-collar by Carlos
Mejia of

Olde Town School for Dogs after Jack ran across the road, forded a creek,

and stampeded my neighbor's cattle. (This occurred, I should add, in

Pennsylvania, not Alexandria.) Thanks to instructions from Carlos,

Jack learned to come in a very short period of time. I have used the

"vibrate" button 99.9% of the time. I used the low

"nick" only once, when Jack began to chase a bear—also in

Pennsylvania. There is no question in my mind that Jack's being safe is

due to his electronic collar. Unlike others, I do not use the collar in

the City, but I fully support those who do so. E-collars can be used as

effectively as a leash.

Since the rescission of the ordinance, I have

attended some, though not all, of the meetings that have been skillfully

chaired by Rose Boyd of the City Manager's office. All of them have been

attended by a substantial number of other city employees, including at

least six or more animal control wardens.

From the very first meeting to

the last, what has become abundantly clear to me is that City Council has

gotten itself square in the middle of an ongoing "tiff" between

animal trainers—hardly a place where a legislative body should be or

needs to be. I myself was unaware of this, until sitting at these

meetings.

They have all been dominated by two themes: (1) dog trainers

criticizing the methodology of other dog trainers and (2) requests by

individuals such as Ms. Beach seeking solid evidence of incidents

concerning

problems with dogs on an e collar. In the course of the last

meeting, Ms. Wilson at Animal Control agreed to review their records to

see what evidence there was that e collars were a problem that could be

shown

in those records.

Only a few days ago, we were informed by Ms.

Boyd that "The Animal Shelter staff were unable to provide

statistics on electronic collars because the information was not captured on the reports." So, in other words, we have a city agency pressing for legislation based on zero, zip, nada, nothing that they can support with numbers. Therefore, what you are being asked to do is take sides in a philosophical disagreement between dog training professionals on what is the best way, or the worst way, to train a dog. Those of us who love our dogs and believe we are training them, and treating them responsibly, and humanely, are now being told we are "cruel"—quite the insult. We are now told that there have been some "incidents" concerning electronic collars which have somehow arisen since we were told there had been none. However, to date, none of this information has been disseminated at least to those who oppose the ordinance. I believe that the wisest course for City Council is to take at present is to decline taking on the renewed ordinance proposal. To legislate something when there are no statistics or other evidence that the problem exists surely is a solution in search of a problem. Your time and energy, not to mention that of staff, should be placed elsewhere. We have a lot of problems and issues to concern ourselves with than e collars for a small number of our pet population. To name but one such problem, why is it that, in calendar year 2010, 35% of all cats and 47% of all dogs at the Alexandria shelter were euthanized? That truly merits the attention of the Welfare League, not quarreling over methods of dog training. Thank you for your attention to this message.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Weight Callahan