Infrastructure and Environment

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Natural Environment

9 June 2026

Dear Consultee

Consultation - Animal Welfare (Prohibited Activities) (Jersey) Order 202-

You may be aware that in March 2026 the States Assembly passed the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2026 "the Law." The Law has now been given Royal Assent and will be registered at the Royal Court before it goes back to the States Assembly. The Law may come into force later this year or early next year.

The Law allows the Minister for the Environment to introduce orders as set out under article 34 of the law.

We are launching this consultation to seek your views on our proposal to make certain animal activities prohibited.

The Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004 prohibits animal fights and shooting events and the use of poisons and we propose to modernize these prohibitions by order under the new Law.

Under the new Law we are proposing a draft order, **Animal Welfare (Prohibited Activities) (Jersey) Order 202-** which prohibits the Administration of poison etc.; Animal fights; Recording etc. of animal fights; Use of electronic collars and use of pinch and prong collars.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the proposal to prohibit the following activities in Jersey. (Please read these points carefully along with the draft order to help understand the proposals);

a) We wish to update our legislation for animal fights and include the prohibition regarding the supply, publish or show to another person photographs, images or video recording of an animal fight or possess photographs, images or video recording knowing it to be so with the intention to supply unless exempted under the order.

b) We wish to update our legislation for the administration of poisons etc. A person knowing whether a drug or substance to be poisonous or cause injury to the animal must not administer the drug or substance to an animal or allow an animal to have access. The new order will prohibit the use of poison listed in the schedule. The Animal Welfare (Poisons) (Jersey) Order 2007 will be revoked.

c) We wish to introduce a prohibition on the use of electronic collars to cats or dogs when the electronic collar causes an electric shock or electric stimulus causing pain or aversive reaction. Under the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (Wales) Regulations 2010, the use of electronic collars in cats and dogs is prohibited in Wales. In April 2023, after years of campaigning by the

British Veterinary Association and a number of other organisations, including The Kennel Club, RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Battersea and Blue Cross, the Government announced plans to ban the use of electric shock collars for dogs and cats in England. The Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (England) Regulations 2023 awaits approval by each House of Parliament.

d) We wish to introduce a prohibition on the use of pinch and prong collars to dogs. The RSPCA, Dogs Trust, The kennel Club , Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, Blue Cross and Association of Pet Dog Trainers and other organisations made a joint statement that started with "*We, the organisations above, are opposed to the use of electronic training devices (ETDs) and pinch collars (also known as prong collars) believing they are unacceptable and unnecessary as a means of training and controlling dogs. We are calling for the sale and use of these devices to be prohibited*".

A consultation was carried out by the Minister for the Environment in 2016 and the States Veterinary officer wrote a report. The following is taken from the report. The report is available on request.

"RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON THE USE OF PINCH (PRONG) COLLARS IN DOGS
Any matter concerning animal welfare is emotive, and when it enters the spotlight, it immediately provokes contentious debate. The Minister has asked the relevant objective questions in his letter, which might be distilled into one essential question:
Does the potential for misuse or abuse warrant an outright ban on their use?

A total of twelve responses were received from interested parties: five veterinary professionals, one companion animal behaviorist, two professionally qualified dog trainers, two handlers of specialist working dogs, one commercial kennel owner and one CE of a local animal welfare charity.
The majority considered pinch collars in the context of other aversive or coercive training aids.
Seven of the twelve respondents were strongly against the use of prong and electronic collars, based on their potential to cause physical and emotional trauma and felt that they should be banned. One however thought that citronella and noise collars were useful and should be exempt from any ban.
One felt that the use of electronic collars to inflict a shock was an inhumane way to correct a dog and this should be banned, however made a strong case in support of the pinch collar in trained hands.
One, referring only to the prong collar, was ambivalent.
Two, whilst supportive of restriction of their use, nevertheless felt that electronic and pinch collars could be useful in certain controlled situations.

One felt that pinch collars were cruel and should be banned, but thought that remote controlled electronic collars had a use in particular cases.

The Minister may wish to consider the options,

1 Take no action

However, there are initiatives across England, the devolved administrations and the EU to change laws and policies to improve animal welfare. It could be argued that Jersey should keep pace.

2 An outright ban on the use of pinch and shock collars

This could well be commensurate with public opinion, but would require revision of the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004, to extend the powers of the Minister to make secondary legislation under it.

3 Professionalise their use by licensing.

End"

Option 2 is now being proposed as the new law enabling the Minister to make secondary legislation under the new animal welfare law.

The proposed secondary legislation strengthens and adds details to the recently agreed animal welfare law

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals which will be used to help refine proposals and inform policy decisions on how the Minister may proceed with any subsequent legislation changes.

The consultation will be open for 5 weeks and will you please send any response at your earliest opportunity preferably by email to rva@gov.je alternatively, in writing to me. The consultation will be closed on the 14 July 2026.

You are welcome to share this letter and the draft Order with any interested person.

We look forward to receiving your comments and/or suggestions.

Yours sincerely

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