*DRAFT template letter to MPs on the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (England) Regulations 2023*

* *Please adapt this letter and make it as personal as possible*
* *Find details of your MP at* [*www.writetothem.com*](http://www.writetothem.com)

[Insert address]

[insert date]

Dear [insert name of MP]

As a veterinary professional and resident in your constituency of [insert constituency], I am calling on you, as my MP, to urge the Government to deliver on its commitment to ban electric shock collars by setting a date for the Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) (England) Regulations 2023 to be approved by the House of Commons.

There is clear evidence that the application of electric shocks to dogs and cats, even at a low level, can cause pain, stress and fear. In addition, research shows that using fear as a training tool not only takes its toll on an animal’s overall welfare, it is also less effective than positive reinforcement. With its members seeing first-hand what can go wrong when aversive training methods are used to control and punish animals, the British Veterinary Association has worked tirelessly alongside other organisations, including The Kennel Club, RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Battersea and Blue Cross, calling for a ban.

While livestock worrying is being cited by some as a justification for the use of shock collars, there is little evidence to suggest their effectiveness in dealing with this issue. In addition to the animal welfare concerns highlighted above, recent surveys suggest that the majority of livestock offences occur from unaccompanied dogs, i.e., stray or latch-key dogs. As electronic shock collars can only be activated with the owner present, their use has no impact on the rates of unaccompanied dogs worrying livestock. Where a dog is accompanied, due to their natural instinct to chase, there is no substitute for keeping them on a lead when walking in the countryside with livestock.

[*Add text here about your personal experiences in relation to the above i.e. why the ban is needed. This will be especially powerful if you can link that to the MPs constituency to make it more relevant to them.*]

There is significant support for banning shock collars. Within one month, a Change.org petition calling for the use of shock collars in Scotland to be completely prohibited attracted 15,000 signatures, while a recent YouGov poll by The Kennel Club found that 77% of the public support a ban. Given this level of support, I am asking you to write to Lord Benyon, Minister for Biosecurity, Marine and Rural Affairs, urging him to ensure that this ban is delivered as promised.

Yours sincerely

[insert name]

cc. Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP, Secretary of State, Defra

     Lord Douglas-Miller, Minister for Biosecurity, Animal Health and Welfare