

**Government Response
to the Petitions Committee Report on
the Petition of Kylee Kelly: Ban the use of shock collars on
dogs**

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 256

Government Response to the Petitions Committee Report on the Petition of Kylee Kelly: Ban the use of shock collars on dogs

Introduction

1. The Government has considered the Petition Committee's (the Committee) report on the Petition of Kylee Kelly: Ban the use of shock collars on dogs.
2. Shock collars are used to train working and companion animals and to discourage unwanted behaviour. When used incorrectly, shock collars can cause physical and psychological harm to dogs.
3. The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) submitted draft Codes of Welfare for cats and dogs for consideration by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) in 2023. The cat and dog draft Codes were accepted into NAWAC's work programme to begin reviewing when resourcing allowed.
4. In May 2024, Hon Andrew Hoggard, Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare, Skills) sent a Letter of Expectation notifying NAWAC of the Government's expectations to prioritise Codes of Welfare for livestock sectors and pause work on companion animal Codes of Welfare.
5. Once the production livestock Codes are progressed and resourcing allows, it is expected that NAWAC will review the companion animal Codes, including the Dog Code of Welfare. This presents an opportunity to review the use of dog shock collars in New Zealand.
6. The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 256.

Government response to the Petitions Committee

7. Recommendation: *the use of dog shock collars in New Zealand should be reviewed by MPI.*
8. Response: Once the production livestock Codes are progressed and resourcing allows, it is expected that NAWAC will review the companion animal Codes, including the Dog Code of Welfare. This presents an opportunity to review the use of dog shock collars in New Zealand.

Conclusion

9. The Government appreciates the work of the Petitions Committee and has carefully considered the recommendation made. NAWAC's Code review work programme will address the recommendation of the Committee.