

Responses to the public consultation on the use of electronic training collars on dogs and cats

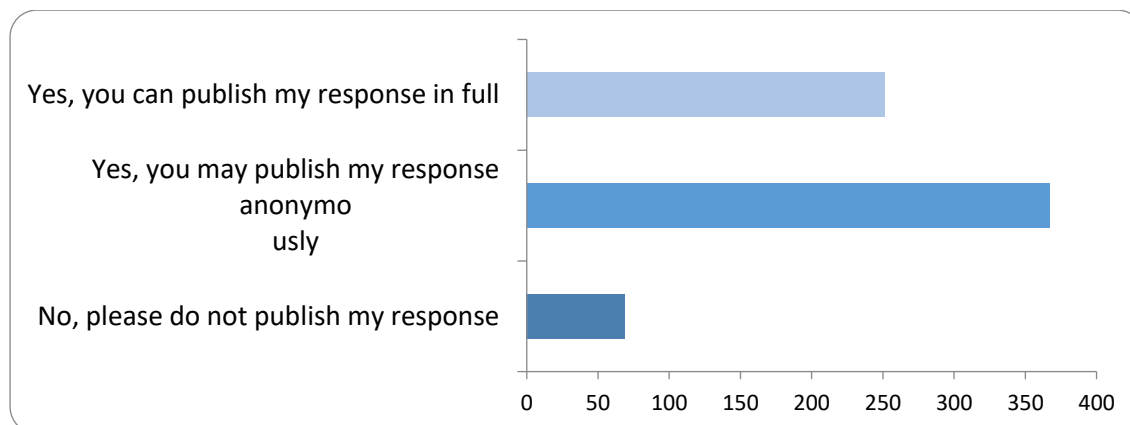
We Asked

The purpose of the consultation by the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) was to seek views on whether the Isle of Man Government should ban or regulate the use of electronic collars for dogs and cats. Any ban or regulation would involve introducing secondary legislation made under the Animal Welfare Act 2023.

You Said

There were 715 responses to the consultation. 28 responses were removed as they appeared to be duplicates based on names, email addresses and in some cases IP addresses being identical. This left 687 unique responses. When asked, 670 respondents said they were individuals and 10 said they represented an organisation. 7 did not answer this question. Those responding on behalf an organisation include the ManxSPCA (Animal Welfare Charity), Puppy Love (Dog homestay), PrecisionK9 (Dog Training Org), Isle of Man Dog Club (Club), Beautiful Beasts Dog Training (Dog Training Specialist), The Association of Responsible Dog Owners (Non- profit educational and campaign group), Breckland Dog Training Limited (Dog Trainers) and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home (Animal Welfare Charity).

We asked respondents if we can publish their response?

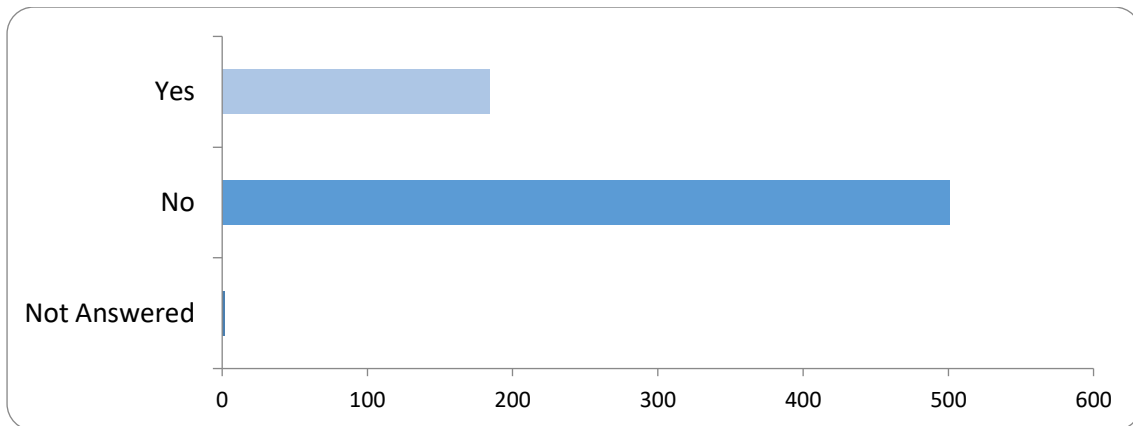


Option	Total	Percent
Yes, you can publish my response in full	251	36.54%
Yes, you may publish my response anonymously	367	53.42%
No, please do not publish my response	69	10.04%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Most people said we could publish their response anonymously (53.42 %) and a further 36.54% said we could publish their response in full.

Do you think it should be an offence to attach to a cat or dog an e-collar that only emits distracting puffs of air or non-aversive behaviour changing pheromones/chemicals?

There were 685 responses to this question.

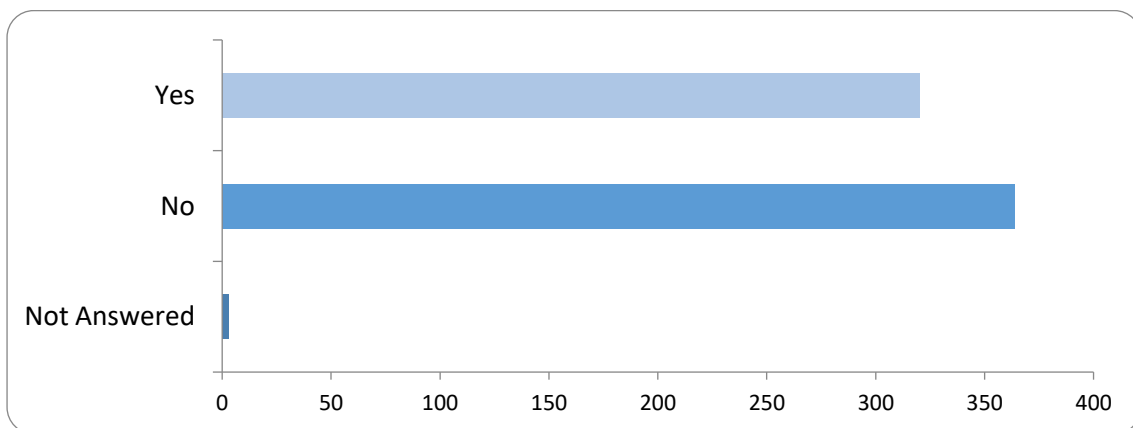


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	184	26.78%
No	501	72.93%
Not Answered	2	0.29%

The majority of respondents did not think this should be an offence (72.93%).

Do you think it should be an offence to attach to a cat or dog an e-collar that only emits a noxious spray?

There were 684 responses to this question.

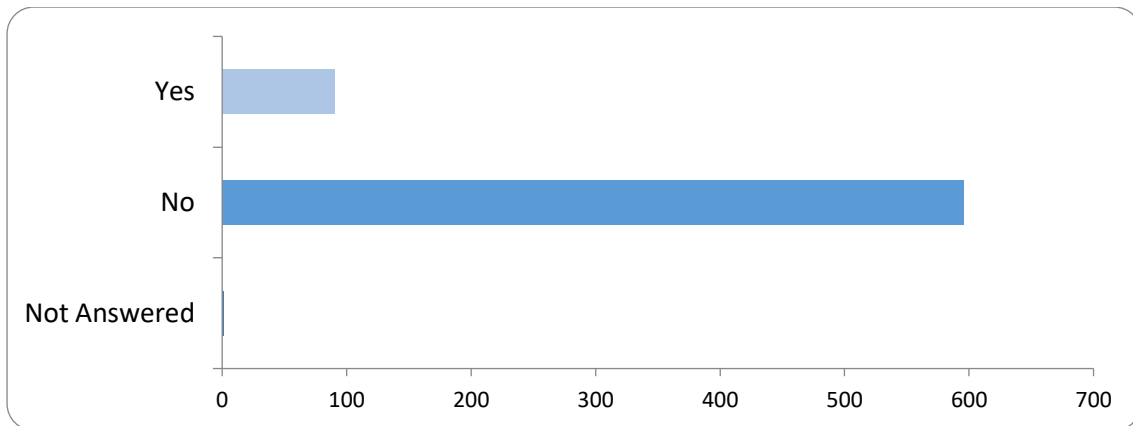


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	320	46.58%
No	364	52.98%
Not Answered	3	0.44%

A small majority of respondents did not think this should be an offence (52.98%), as compared to the 46.58% who felt it should be.

Do you think it should be an offence to attach to a cat or dog an e-collar that delivers a noise or vibration (but no electric shock)?

There were 686 responses to this question.

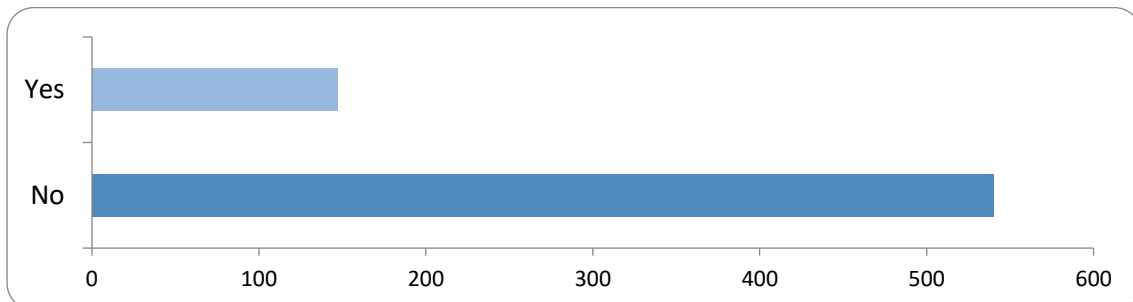


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	90	13.10%
No	596	86.75%
Not Answered	1	0.15%

The majority of respondents did not think this should be an offence (86.75%).

Do you think it should be an offence to attach to a cat or dog and e-collar that delivers an electric shock?

There were 687 responses to this question.

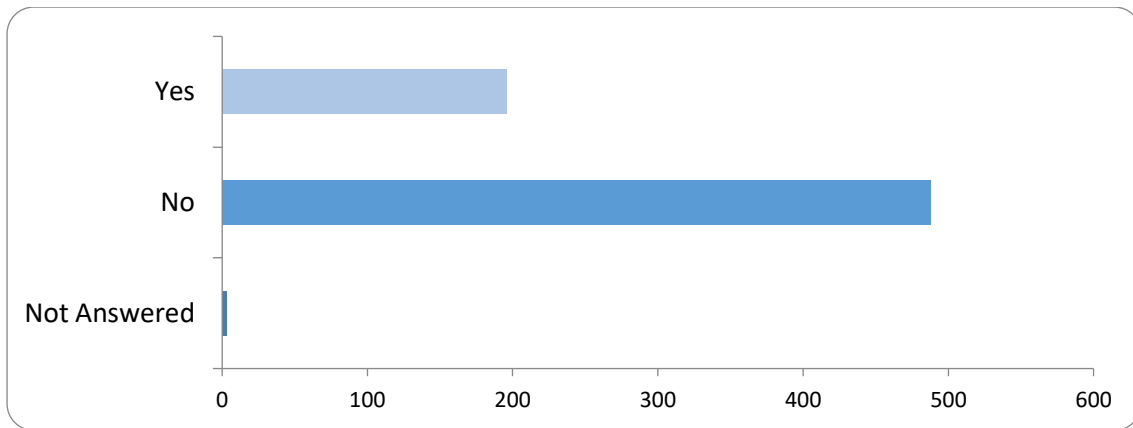


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	147	21.40%
No	540	78.60%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

The majority of respondents did not think this should be an offence (78.60%).

Do you think it should be an offence to attach to a cat or dog an e-collar capable of delivering an automatically triggered electric shock as part of a containment system?

There were 684 responses to this part of the question.

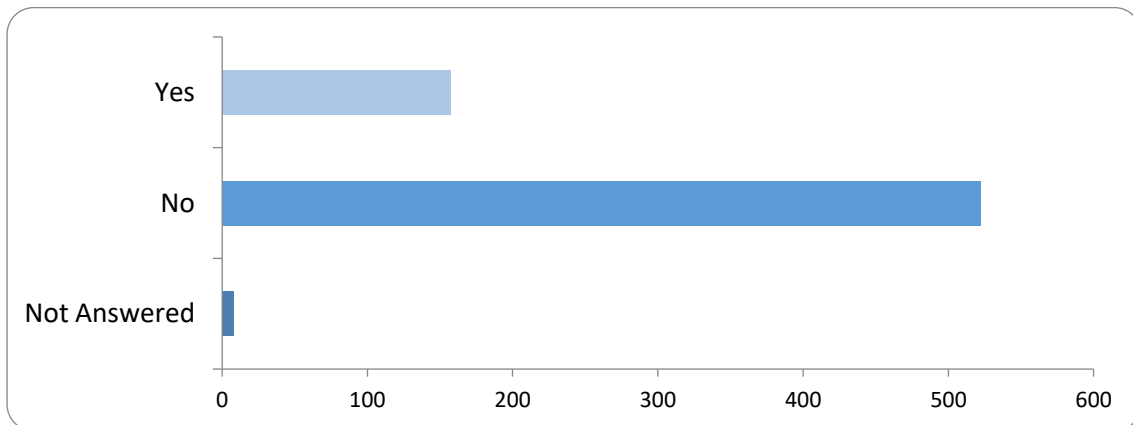


Option	Total	Percent
Yes	196	28.53%
No	488	71.03%
Not Answered	3	0.44%

The majority of respondents did not think this should be an offence (71.03%).

If attaching an e-collar is made an offence, do you think it should also be an offence to be responsible for a cat or dog which has an e-collar attached?

There were 779 responses to this question.



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	157	22.85%
No	522	75.98%
Not Answered	8	1.16%

The majority of respondents did not think this should be an offence (75.98%).

The final question asked for any other views on these proposals or relating to them?

There were 510 responses to this question, which requested comments. Of the 510 comments by far the majority were generally against any ban on e-collars. Comments include, *“they save dogs lives”, “can give a dog more freedom”, “if a ban was in place many dogs, livestock and wildlife would die”, “they are an essential training tool for deaf dogs”, “these tools save lives” and “e-collars are harmless training tools”*.

Seven respondents' comments were in favour of a ban on e-collars. Thirty respondents' comments, although not in favour of a ban of e-collars were in favour of some form of regulation or licencing of e-collars. Comments include *"E-collars, when used responsibly, offer valuable training advantages, especially in preventing dog attacks. Instead of a ban, they should be strictly regulated and licensed"*, *"I agree the use of electronic training collars should be regulated and licenced training to use them ethically should be mandatory"*, *"only make them available through a trainer"* and *"I believe a ban on sub-standard/ poor equipment should be in place"*.

We did

The Department is grateful to those individuals and organisations who took time to respond to the consultation and tell us their views. There were a significant number of responses that appear to be from outside of the Isle of Man borders. The Department is aware that there are significant concerns about the use of electronic collars in dogs and cats and will do further work to explore this area further.

The new Animal Welfare Act 2023 has its Appointed Day Order due to be laid before Tynwald at the May 2024 sitting, meaning the Animal Welfare Act will come into operation on the 1st June 2024. This Act introduces a duty of care to ensure owners and keepers meet the needs of their animals as to the extent required by good practice. These needs include those necessary for an animal to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, and its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. Animal Welfare codes of practice for dogs and cats will soon be published by the Department for the purpose of providing practical guidance in respect of achieving, maintaining, and demonstrating good practice in the care of kept animals