

Animal Welfare

Regulation of Virtual Fencing Technologies in Victoria

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National legislation on electric collar use

Jurisdiction	E-collars regulated	Use permitted on dogs and/or cats	E-collar use permitted on livestock
Victoria	Yes, use allowed only on prescribed species and under set conditions.	Yes, dogs and cats but only in accordance with strict conditions including training	No
South Australia	Yes, regulations create an offence to apply a collar to an animal capable of imparting an electric shock.	No.	No
New South Wales	Yes	Yes, but only containment systems for dogs and cats	No
Queensland	Not regulated	Not regulated	Not regulated
Northern Territory	Yes, electrical devices regulated	Yes, but only for training of dogs and if not operated by a remote device	No
Australian Capital Territory	Yes, use only where prescribed by regulation for use on the animal.	No	No
Western Australia	Yes , regulated use only allowed if prescribed	Yes, containment collars for dogs only in accordance with prescribed requirements including significant level of training.	No
Tasmania	Not regulated	Not regulated	Not regulated

Victorian Legislation for electric collars

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2008

- Electric collars prohibited except for certain types of collars for dogs and cats
- Use of collar on dogs or cats requires:
 - Veterinary check and ongoing use only under veterinary or qualified dog trainer supervision
 - Collar not left on for more than 12 hours in any 24 hours
 - Dog/cat trained to use of collar in accordance with mandatory code
 - Visual barrier required for containment systems and these are not regarded as confinement barrier only an adjunct to physical fences
 - Compliance with other conditions set out in regulations
- Collars must comply with specifications in regulations
- Offence to sell or hire except approved collars and in accordance with legislation

Animal Welfare

Legislation is in place to protect welfare of animals

- Use needs to have welfare benefit to the animal
- Important animals understand why they get the shock and how to avoid it
- Training animal to use is vital to minimise any animal welfare impact.
- Welfare concerns include
 - **Fear, stress and anxiety**
 - **Pressure necrosis**
 - **Sensitivity/reaction of animal to shock: can be impacted by range of factors including environmental conditions**