

## Shock collars and Electronic Containment Systems (ECS)

I wish I had kept a journal of all the ECS (electronic containment system) behavior problem/stories I have encountered. I remember one (decades ago) when I first realized how damaging these can be. A yard had been wired incorrectly and there was an area where the dog got trapped there (without relief of the shocking -“tickle” “buzz” “vibration” – whatever term used to make one think this is a benign stimulation) for a few hours until the people came home to find it in that circumferential “torture” zone. The dog had been left alone and the electric fence was the baby sitter. The dog was never the same again. Then there are the folks who can't get their dog in the car because they didn't realize in the past they had forgotten to take the collar off the dog when getting (s)he in the car and then driving out the driveway under which was the (electric) wire. The stories are endless.

Apologists for these devices will say, “Oh, I put the collar on my arm and it was just a little vibration,” (or some such variation of that). What they forget is that our nervous system is not the same as a dogs, which is exponentially more sensitive to stimulations of this kind. If an animal can sense a Tsunami long before what scientific equipment is able, we can only imagine what “tickling” collars can do.

For a better understanding of these devices and the damage they can do, please read:

**Use of shock collars** <http://www.pitbullguru.com/shock.html>