

**Animal Medical Clinic  
795 West Oneida  
Preston, Idaho 83263**

To Whom It May Concern:

This statement is in regards to the dog "Rufus", an eight month old, Yellow Labrador Retriever, owned by [REDACTED] of Richmond, Utah. I personally examined and treated this dog on May 21, 2002 for injuries resulting from the apparent malfunction of a training collar designed to produce an electrical current for correction, ie "shock collar". The dog had been wearing this collar during a rainy day and when the owners removed the collar, they noticed a deep hole in the neck and green "corrosion" on and around the collar and on the hair of the neck.

On my examination the dog required general anesthesia, due to pain, in order to clean and determine the extent of the wounds. The neck was bathed and clumps of hair fell out of skin in the most affected areas. The remainder of the neck hair was clipped. The skin was diffusely swollen and reddened from the left ear to the right jugular furrow and from the submandibular area to the clavical area. The skin in this area ranged from superficial to deep involvement with lesions consistent with a severe chemical burn. The circular defect (hole) in the neck was about one inch deep and ½ inch in diameter with grey edges extending into the muscular tissues of the neck. A second defect approximately 1 ½ inches from the first was smaller and of similar appearance. These lesions lined up with the electric prongs of the collar.

Treatments for these injuries included decontamination of the skin and hair coat by bathing as well as surgically debriding and suturing the larger circular deficit. The dog was placed on a broad spectrum antibiotic and topical antibiotic ointment.

It is my assessment that the lesions seen on this dog were caused by the before mentioned <sup>training</sup> collar. The malfunction of this collar produced first, second and third degree chemical and thermal burns.

Thank you for your time in addressing this matter, it is my hope that this type of injury will not be seen again from your, or any other, product designed to improve the human-animal bond.

Sincerely,

*Susan K. Benson, DVM*  
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