



PUw Prints

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Try Evanger's Pet Foods

Evanger's is a small company in Illinois with a 70 year reputation for making pet foods from the finest, natural ingredients. The company fervently believes that our pets' health and the health of their offspring are dependent on wholesome, nutritious food - food without any preservatives and free of harmful additives. Evanger's pet food has been approved as Kosher by the Chicago Rabbinical Council.

Classic Meats

Green Acres is pleased to offer Evanger's 100% Meat Classic line for dogs and cats, which is exactly that, 100% meat with sufficient water for processing. The meats used are antibiotic and hormone free. They make an excellent supplement to dry foods, and are available in 13oz cans in the following varieties; 100% Beef, Beef Chunks, Beef with Liver, Cooked Chicken, Beef with Chicken, Beef and Bacon, and Beef with Chicken and Liver.



Game Meats for Dogs and Cats

Evanger's Game Meats line is also 100% meat with sufficient water for processing. The meats used are antibiotic and hormone free and offer unique protein sources, making them ideal for dogs with protein sensitivities. They make an excellent supplement to dry foods, and are available in 6oz cans in the following varieties; Buffalo, Duck, Rabbit, Pheasant, Chicken, and Beef.

Super Premium Gold Dinners for Dogs

Evanger's Super Premium Dinners for dogs is a complete diet and may be fed alone or with other food. They are available in 13oz cans in the following formulas; Cooked Chicken, Beef with Chicken, Duck & Sweet Potato, Beef with Chunks, Chicken with Chunks, Turkey Chunk Stew, and Lamb & Rice.

Hand Packed Specialties for Dogs

The Hand Packed Specialties; Roasted Chicken Drumettes, Whole Chicken Thigh, Braised Beef Chunks, Hunk of Beef,

and Whole Mackerel with Gravy are unique in that they are processed to maintain the shape and nutrition of each recipe's contents - whether it is a whole fish dinner or a choice chicken part. The cooking process softens those recipes that contain bones - which make them edible, safe, wholesome and highly digestible. Fresh, natural and superior ingredients (no by-products) ensure quality on a human-grade level.

Super Premium Gold Dinners Cats

Evanger's also produces a super premium line of cat food in the following formulas; Seafood, Seafood & Caviar, Whole Mackerel with Gravy and Holistic Pheasant.

What Our Pets Think

Our three cats all received double doses of finicky when they were programmed, so we were pleased to see their reaction to these foods from Evanger's. Thelma, the cute little orange and white cat in the

store, comes running when I open a can of the whole mackerel. Batman gives all of the formulas high marks.

Our Golden Tikken loves the Roasted Chicken Drumettes and her and Dulcie both rave about the fabulous Hunk of Beef.

Stop by and pickup some Evanger's for your best friend!

Staff Anniversaries

Christie Mahaffey—April—4 years

Jessie Bidol—May—4 years

Kate Dutra—June—14 years

Brenda Merrill—June—9 years

Angela Sedgwick—June—5 years

Patty McNamara—June—7 years

Thank You!

No Shock – Train with Your Brain, Not Pain!

We first warned you of the danger of shock collars in our May 2004 *Paw Prints*. Since writing that article, we have obtained studies and information further supporting Green Acres position on this serious matter. Additionally many canine behavior professionals have reached the same conclusions about the problems caused by the use of shock collars. Sadly, due to the continued popularity of electronic underground fence systems and the use of shock collars in training, we felt the need to address this topic again.

A shock collar consists of a buckle collar worn around the dog's neck. Attached to the collar is a small box with two metal electrodes. The collar is fit tightly on the dog so the electrodes penetrate the dog's fur and press snugly against their skin. When activated, there is a potential of 1500 volts to 4500 volts across the electrodes, which delivers a painful electrical shock to the dog¹. Some collars may even operate at higher voltages. Unfortunately, it is impossible to confirm voltages because manufacturers are very secretive about the amount of voltage their systems apply.

There are three types of shock collars in current use; 1) remote collars, 2) anti-bark collars, and 3) underground fence containment collars. The manner in which the collars are activated varies with the type of collar.

Remote training collars utilize a transmitting unit, held by the person. By pressing a button on the transmitter, they can shock the dog whenever they wish. The shock is used as a form of positive punishment (shocked when the dog does something the person does not want) or negative reinforcement (shocked continuously until the dog exhibits a desirable behavior). These collars are often used by those who hunt or compete in field trials so that their owners can earn trophies and ribbons. There is even a group of dog trainers that advocate their use for training typical pet dog behaviors such as sit and stay. There are humane and more effective ways to train these behaviors as well as to train dogs for hunting and trials.

Anti-bark shock collars work by detecting when the dog barks and then administering an electric shock as a form of positive punishment, hopefully stopping the dog from barking. Barking is a very normal and very complex behavior for a dog, meaning that there are many possible reasons a dog barks. One of the most frequent reasons a dog barks is due to anxiety. If a stressed dog suddenly receives a painful shock on its neck it is much more likely to become even more stressed, wanting to bark even more, thus receiving more shocks. These collars cannot distinguish why a dog is barking so just keep shocking away.

Underground fence containment systems administer a shock to the dog when they cross a visible or invisible line in the yard. In theory, they serve as an alternative to a real fence. However, they do not keep animals or people out of your yard and your dog will not only receive a shock for leaving but will also receive a shock for coming home. I have personally witnessed dogs with burns on their necks due to the use of these collars and have observed dogs that have become aggressive and have bitten because of these systems.

There is no doubt that shock collars cause pain. While proponents might call it a "stim" or a "tap," we know from the science of operant conditioning that the aversive stimulus (shock) must be sufficiently aversive (i.e. painful) in order to work. Folks, let's call them what they are: shock collars are nothing less than a device used to hurt your dog from a distance. Fortunately standards and laws prohibit physical abuse such as kicking or hitting an animal, so why should abuse my remote control be acceptable? We don't think it is.

Green Acres opposes the use of shock collars because they; 1) cause pain and stress, 2) they can cause aggression, and 3) because there are ample humane alternatives to training and containment, so the use of shock amounts to abuse.

Two studies^{2,3} have reported that shock collars definitely cause undue stress on a dog. A study of guard dogs², specifically bred for toughness and low sensitivity to pain and stress, found that training with shock collars caused long lasting stress effects to the point that the dog continued to associate their handler

as aversive even outside of a training context. The dogs exhibited behaviors clearly associated with fear and anxiety long after they had received shocks.

Another study³ examined the use of shock for training to stop undesirable hunting/chasing behavior. This study also revealed the dogs found being trained with shock to be very stressful. The authors concluded "...the general use of electric shock collars is not consistent with animal welfare."

As a behavior counselor, I have worked with clients whose dogs became aggressive after they began using a shock collar containment system. I know of many other trainers who have done the same. A study published in 2000¹ looked at five dogs who were subjected to shock collar containment systems and who later bit people, resulting in a law suit. No dog had a prior history of displaying aggression towards people and it is believed that the dogs received a shock at the time of the attack. There is no evidence to suggest that the humans bitten were acting in a threatening manner prior to the attack. In all cases, the dogs bit the victim repeatedly and uninhibitedly, resulting in serious bodily injury. Other studies on the use of shock on other species, including humans, have noted the extreme viciousness and intensity of shock-elicited aggression.

No Shock – Train with Your Brain, Not Pain! - (continued)

Fortunately, opposition to shock collars by educated canine professionals and dog lovers is growing world wide. The use of shock collars has been illegal in many parts of Australia for some time. By the end of the year, Parliament will pass a new animal welfare bill which will prohibit the use of shock collars in the United Kingdom. Supporting this bill are the Kennel Club (the British equivalent of the AKC), the RSPCA and Dogs Trust (two large animal welfare organizations) and the UK Association of Pet Dog Trainers.

Here in the US, Dr. Karen Overall, noted Veterinary Behaviorist, has stated "Let me make my opinion perfectly clear: Shock is not training - in the vast majority of cases it meets the criteria for abuse. In my patient population, dogs who have been 'treated' with shock have a much higher risk of an undesirable outcome (e.g., euthanasia) than dogs not subjected to shock, and I never recommend euthanasia. In all situations where shock has been used there is some damage done, even if we cannot easily see it. No pet owner needs to use this technique to achieve their goal. Dogs who cease to exhibit a problem behavior usually also cease to exhibit normal behaviors."

A group of concerned dog behavior counselors and trainers have formed two new groups; trulydogfriendly.com and the No Shock Collar coalition. A group in Canada, the International Association of Positive Dog Trainers is also opposed to the use of shock collars.

Sadly, there are trainers that will insist these pain causing tools are necessary to train dogs. They believe that reward based training does not work on all dogs. This says a great deal about their lack of knowledge and skills in training dogs and their lack of compassion in caring for their dogs.

While we recognize both managing and training a dog can be frustrating, there is always a better way to deal with a situation than using electric shock. You can find more information on this topic at our website (www.greenacreskennel.com).

¹ Polsky, Richard. (2000). Can Aggression in Dogs Be Elicited Through the Use of Electronic Pet Containment Systems?. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 3(4), 345-357

² Schilder, Matthijs B.H. and van der Borg, Joanne A.M., (2004), Training dogs with help of the shock collar: short and long term behavioural effects, *Applied Animal Behavior Science* 85 (2004) 319-334

³ Schalke, E., Stichnoth, J. and Jones-Baade, R., Stress Symptoms Caused by the Use of Electric Training Collars on Dogs (*Canis familiaris*) in Everyday Life Situations, *Current Issues and Research in Veterinary Behavioral Medicine*,



Kennel & Staff News

New Siding

When directing friends and family to Green Acres you will now need to tell them to look for the big yellow house, instead of the big white house. Our home was recently resided by Randy Chute and his crew from Chute Contracting (989-6787) This was the latest construction project completed for us by Randy, and we recommend him highly!

Transitions & Promotions

Adam Morrison, our Kennel Manager since October of 2002, will be leaving us by the end of summer so that he can devote more time to being with his family. He will continue instructing classes for us on a part-time basis. Rachel McLeod, a Pet Care Technician at Green Acres since February of 2003, has been promoted to Kennel Manager and will take over for Adam upon his departure.

Congratulations Graduates!

Several of our Green Acres family recently graduated:

- U Former Dog Training Instructor and Pet Care Technician Heidi Brzezowski is now Dr. Brzezowski, having graduated with a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Ross University. Heidi will be practicing in the Turner area.
- U Dog Training Instructor, Christie Mahaffey has graduated with a Master Degrees in Human Ecology from the College of Atlantic. She is continuing her doctoral studies at the University of Maine.

- U Angela Sedgwick, Pet Care Technician and Assistant Dog Training Instructor, has graduated with a BS in Biology from Houghton College. Angela will be continuing to pursue a degree in nursing at the University of Maine.
- U Our new Kennel Manager and Assistant Dog Training Instructor Rachel McLeod has graduated with an AS in Veterinary Technology from the University of Maine

Seminars & Training

In February, Pet Behavior Counselors Don Hanson and Kate Dutra traveled to Enfield, NH where they attended a seminar on small animal behavior instructed by Dr. Karen Overall. Dr. Overall covered a wide variety of topics including; the importance of understanding normal signaling and development in dog and cat behavior problems, the truth about dog bites - breed and risk factors, feline aggression, treating canine anxieties, and intervention strategies for canine aggression.

In March, Don Hanson traveled to Wales for a three day Continuing Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Dr. Edward Bach Foundation and the Natural Animal Centre. Attendees from England, Israel, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, the US and Wales discussed counseling techniques and reviewed cases where Bach Flower Remedies have been used to treat behavioral issues with animals. Species discussed included cats, dogs, guinea pigs, horses, pigs and sheep.



Green Acres Kennel Shop
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2002, 2003, 2004 & 2005



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*Helping you and your pet
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Flea & Tick Season

With Spring and Summer comes flea, heartworm and tick season. If you have not already done so, make sure you make an appointment with your dog's veterinarian to have them checked for heartworm. While there ask them about which flea and tick preventatives will be the most appropriate for your dog and cat. We strongly encourage you to follow your veterinarian's recommendations and to purchase these products directly from them.

While as a retail outlet we can sell a variety of flea and tick products for direct application to your pet, the ones we can legally sell, as is the case with any other non-veterinary retail outlet, are far more toxic and less effective than the products you can get from your veterinarian. Because of the toxic nature of these pesticides, your veterinarian is in the best position to make sure all of the pets in your home are effectively and safely treated. That may not happen if you buy these products from a catalog, over the internet, via an 800 number or from a pet store without a veterinarian on staff, who actually exams your pet.



Coupons

Rather than limiting coupons to our newsletter 3 or 4 times a year, we are now posting coupons on our redesigned website on a monthly basis. Just checkout the *What's New* section of the website for our latest monthly coupons. For June you will find coupons for Evanger's canned food, Wysong dry foods, Gentle Leader's, EZ-Walk and Sensible Walking Harnesses, Sea Bones, Sea Jerky, Stuffed Toys, Bug N' Out Insect Repellent, and Sun Spot sun screen for pets,

Upcoming Events

FRI June 23 —The ARK Golf Tournament—Bar Harbor Country Club

SAT—June 24—BHS Pet Appreciation Day—Sam's Club parking lot

SAT Aug. 19—Bangor Dog days—Downtown Bangor

SAT Sept. 30—Green Acres Pet Appreciation Day—Green Acres

SAT Oct. 7—BHS *Paws on Parade*—Bangor Waterfront

SAT & SUN Nov. 11 & 12—Bach Flower Remedies for Pets Workshop—Yarmouth, ME