

Devocalization of dogs

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support the "devocalization" of companion animals.

Rationale

- Devocalization prohibits animals from exhibiting their natural behaviour and hinders their ability to communicate.
- Devocalization may result in infections, laryngeal paralysis, and airway stenosis.
- Excessive barking may be a manifestation of behavioural illness such as generalized anxiety, compulsive disorder, or separation anxiety. In such cases, the underlying cause should be treated.
- Alternatives, such as behavior modification techniques, citronella bark collars, and various medications can be considered.

References

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Surgical Procedures for Resolving Undesirable Behavior." ASPCA position statement, New York, n.d.
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Surgical Mutilation." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, 2012.
3. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. "Devocalization of Dogs." CVMA position statement, Ottawa, 2009.
4. Wells, D.L. "The effectiveness of a citronella spray collar in reducing certain forms of barking in dogs." Applied Animal Behavior Science, no. 73 (2001): 299-309
5. Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. "Devocalization Fact Sheet." HSVMA Advocacy Division, California, n.d.