

Improper use of your remote trainer (or e-collar) can cause pressure sores, or what is also called pressure necrosis. If your dog does develop pressure sores, people often mistake them for burn marks. In reality, the milliamps generated from the receiver of these collars simply cannot generate enough heat necessary to do tissue damage.

## **What Causes Pressure Sores from the E-Collar?**

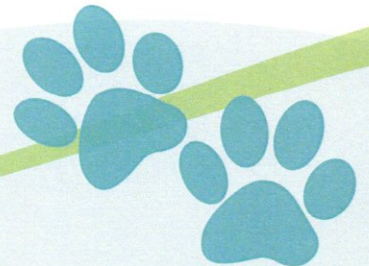
**1. Improper fit:** A the receiver must be properly fitted to the dog's neck. Either too loose or too tight of a fit can cause problems. If the collar box is too tight, the contact points will restrict blood flow to the tissue underneath, thus causing the skin tissue to begin to break down and deteriorate. Continual pressure placed on the skin by small points of contact decrease blood flow to that area of the body and can cause tissue damage.

On the other hand, if the receiver is too loose, it can easily rotate around the neck or move vertically as the dog raises and lowers his head, the resulting friction can damage the skin.

**2. Improper wear time.** If the dog is wearing the collar for longer than recommended (max 8 - 10 hours per day) pressure sores may begin to form. Every dog is different, and variables such as length of hair coat, health of the skin, and moisture can all play a role in contributing to the possibility of collar sores forming. Some dogs seem to have no problem wearing the collar receiver for a full day, and others begin to show signs of redness after a few hours.

**3. Moisture.** Your e-collar is waterproof! But if your dog gets wet, make sure you take the receiver off for a while after the swim (or are exposed to heavy rain/snow) to allow the skin to dry. Wet skin is weak and may be more prone to pressure sores. Moisture trapped under the plastic housing of the collar can hasten the process of tissue breakdown.

**FLIP OVER FOR TIPS TO PREVENT PRESSURE SORES!**



**To help avoid the possibility of your dog developing irritation or sores:**

- Avoid leaving the collar on the dog for more than 8-10 hours max per day
  - ALWAYS TAKE IT OFF WHEN THEY ARE IN THEIR CRATE
- When possible, reposition the collar on the dog's neck every few hours
- Check the fit to prevent excessive pressure
  - You'll want to re-check fit as your dog's coat gets thicker/thinner and as they grow/change weight
  - Position your receiver-collar high on your dog's neck, to the left or right side of the throat. If you place the collar too low it will move and not be effective. You should be able to get 2 fingers between the e-collar strap and the dog's neck – or one finger underneath one post. Wiggle the collar to ensure that it is snug and that the contact points are against the skin.
- Never connect a leash to the electronic collar; it will cause excessive pressure on the contacts
- Examine the contact area daily for signs of a rash or a sore
  - If a rash or sore is found, discontinue use of the collar until the skin has healed
  - If the condition persists beyond 48 hours, see your veterinarian