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May 11, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

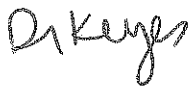
The cease and desist letter did not go into effect as stated since the "choke-off" method was only renamed into a "lift-off". The technique is still being taught and administered to the canines at CCFR.

I would also like to comment on the safety of the "choke-off" method. I have shown what physical problems can occur with this technique by documenting the hemorrhagic sclera and neck bruising on the canine Yuran.

The "choke-off" does not initiate the gag reflex. It utilizes pressure on the larynx and trachea to restrict oxygenation which gets the dog to release the toy. I know this since I observed dogs becoming cyanotic while this technique was utilized. The gag reflex is stimulated by cranial nerves IX and X. In order to cause a gag reflex you need to stimulate the oropharynx (a structure inside the mouth).

I have previously stated that I have talked to other veterinarians and have provided medical papers describing the increase in intra-ocular pressure that show harm can come to animals being choked. I would like to have access to the information that other veterinarians have cited ensuring the choke off method is safe.

Sincerely,



Dr. Megan Keyes
Veterinarian
Canine Center Front Royal