**AFA Notification No. 71 August 2018.**

**This Notification deals with the unacceptable practice of using electronic collars as a training aid in flyball.**

The AFA Committee at its Meeting on Monday the 6th August considered correspondence from a member dealing with a dog being identified as wearing an electronic shock collar (known as a E-Collar) at a recent NSW competition.

Whilst the Committee noted that upon inspection the e-collar was not working and could not be activated, it however was concerned that to be effective the device must have actually been used to condition the dog to its operation at some point in time.

The Committee was concerned re this matter for two reasons – first the use of e-collars for behavior training / control is not legal in NSW (and several other States/Territories in Australia) and second the Committee was of the view that any use would involve a breach of Rule 2.1(b) dealing with training methods having to be in the best interests of the dog.

Clearly the Committee cannot ignore any illegal behavior and must therefore take action when such a situation is drawn to its attention.

The Committee acknowledged that it does not appear to be well known that such devices are illegal to be used in dog training or control in several States and Territories of Australia, including NSW, ACT, and South Australia, and can only be used in other States under defined conditions - accordingly the Committee is notifying all members of this position and that the use of such devices in flyball will be considered to be a breach of Rule 2.1.

The Committee determined to draw all members attention to the above position and to advise that the wearing of an e-collar, or similar device, whether activated or not, at any flyball activity, including training was not acceptable.

B. Lindsay (For Committee)