

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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My position on Banning Prong Collars: I am against these being banned, please read my story below on how a prong potentially saved my dogs life. I am an owner of a pure bred border collie who will be 2yrs of age in July. I wanted and ensured me and my family were responsible in training our border collie appropriately. We signed up for obedience classes with an organisation called The Canine Classroom. Positive re-enforcement methods, as well as corrective methods. I was determined to train with a flat lead collar, i persisted and persisted. I was so against the check chain and the prong collar, until my relationship fell apart and moved to a property with 2 acres and they had 2 horses. I moved to use a check chain to train him around the horses, (natural herd instinct) otherwise if i hadn't he would of been kicked fair in the head and possibly died. The check chain was so unreliable due to the length of his hair. There was no consistency in getting the message across, and when you have a dog that has those natural instincts they have to be corrected and understand how they can behave. For the best situation to ensure our border collie got the best life possible - (getting into any sort of animal sports and or herding training is near impossible waiting lists are exorbitantly long and so hard to actually appropriately train him to do what he is naturally born to do) So we have done our best to train him through trainers, sports etc. Remember here, i am against any sort of check chain or prong, however i really had no choice to do what was best for him and his life. It would of been cruel to not train him appropriately, not have that consistency we moved to the prong after a lot of training how to use them properly to ensure there is no injury. This was only to be a temporary measure until he understood how he could behave around the horses. We no longer use the prong around the horses because he no longer chases them and does what he has done prior to training him with the prong. We now only use it because when we go for walks his herding instincts kick in with the cars. When on the prong it is a self correction tool, one would think if they create pain and distress they would run away when you pull the prong out. Instead he sits and waits for us to put it on in readiness for a walk. He has never ever squealed or yelped. Though we don't actually need to correct him with it. He corrects himself. We don't use it all the time, just when we know he will have an issue and needs correction. I am gob smacked about the lack of research and understanding that has been undertaken to draw this conclusion. When your child misbehaves are you saying we should not punish them, but give them rewards when they do the right things? clearly the government doesn't understand the real world. Especially when you are dealing with dogs that are untrained, aggressive and just being allowed to commit more serious acts and get away with it. For us that put the effort into training, and look after our dogs is simply because we love them and want the best for them - namely a great life and long life. For those that say it looks scary and have really not educated themselves on them and the benefits is way beyond my comprehension as the saying goes don't knock it until you try it. I started out with absolutely being dead against, and now i see why people move to using them. To ban these would be a disservice to protecting the dogs life, people that engage with them, and in managing the behavioral issues that are so extreme that positive re-enforcement alone doesn't achieve. I am so advocating for the use of prong collars as long as appropriate training on the usage of them is provided. Perhaps consider allowing those to use them with a license - that way they are trained appropriately to use them. A check chain, a harness and halti could be so much worse for a dog then a prong collar.. i have seen many videos where a prong won't even bust a balloon no matter how hard you try to. Please consider the above and do what's right for the owners that are doing the right thing, and for the trainers that are also doing the right thing in trying to rehabilitate dogs those that are aggressive. Your sincerely