

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 42
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Submitter Comments:

I am currently a NSW resident looking to move to QLD. I have cerebral palsy affecting my lower limbs known as spastic diplegia, With my wife I have 4 dogs, 3 cats and 2 rabbits. I have been on the board of Sydney Dogs and cats home, every greyhound and am actively involved in animal related charities. As you can see from above I am an advocate of animal welfare and dedicate a large portion of my life in ensuring animals are treated with respect and are not harmed. The prong collar is currently used on my bull Arab and in the past it was also used on my bull mastiff, these are two chery strong dogs with high prey drive and without the prong collar I could simply not hold them. In the past my bull mastiff (whom is no longer with us) while on a check chain dragged me on my stomach for about 10 meters until I managed to grab onto a letterbox and hold on. If I had simply let her go which is what is adviced what would have happened is she would have run across the road past on coming traffic and chased this cat. She would not have harmed it as she lived with cats, but for her seeing a cat on the street is a fun chasing game. We have tried many tools with many trainers but she was just simply too strong and either managed to wiggle herself out of them or they just simply didn't work. We did this with the help of accredited dog trainers so no tool we tried was done without the assistance of an accredited trainer. Since then my wife has completed the NDTF accreditation and is a qualified trainer herself. I believe that banning these training tools will not help in the fight against animal cruelty but will make things worse. People who currently use these tools will need to turn to other methods of training and thus will be less effective, more dogs will be given up as a result and more dogs will be euthanised. Pure positive training methods simply don't work in the time frame that shelters have to rehabilitate an animal. These are what most shelters are now moving towards due to political pressure. If this law is passed I will need to cancel my plans to move to QLD as I won't be able to care for my bill Arab effectively and I will not rehome him. I simply can not walk him without a prong as he is too strong and has a very strong prey drive towards anything that moves quickly at night. The prong collar is helping us curb his behaviour.

Without a prong if he was to get away from me and cause damage such as knock over a child as he can get quite playful or chase a cat, I would be labelled an irresponsible owner and my dog will be marked as dangerous. His quality of life will deteriorate as will mine. I urge that you reconsider this bill and instead consider one where the public is required to get licensing along with or required training to use these training tools instead. Preferably I'd like to see all dog owners required to get training and licensing to simply own a dog.