

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 103
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Make my submission public but keep my name confidential
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Recommend against the passing of this bill. As a dog trainer, dog owner and fosterer I know just how key having access to all methods of communication equipment with different dogs can be. Having fostered and trained many dogs, I know that every dog is different and different tools, training and methods are developed to give them the most benefit. Some of my dog's love their harness and work well using them, whereas other dog's are gear shy and don't like wearing them but prefer a collar. Dogs that are large and strong and that pull on the lead can be very dangerous for their owners to handle. It is my recommendation to these clients that they use devices such as a check chain, prong or gentle leader while we are working on their training, interacting with their dog in order to keep both them and their dogs safe. Any tool can be abused and misused. In fact, vets now commonly see life long injuries and medical issues from dog's that use harnesses far more often than they see prong collar injuries. When used correctly these tools allow a better communication and relationship between their dog and their owners. It improves their quality of life and general well-being when their needs are able to be met. Banning these types of tools is likely to have a negative impact upon both dogs and their owners. The quote "It's not the tool, it's the tool behind the tool" - is the sentiment I take from these types of push to ban things just because of one school of thought. It doesn't take into account those dog's whose lives will be severely and negatively impacted because of this. People can abuse any tool, the right course of action would be to have harsher penalties for misusing a device and put in place preventative measures, such as having reliable and accessible information about these tools, courses and trainers who are well versed and knowledgeable to teach others the proper use of these devices. Banning something outright isn't an effective measure to prevent misuse and harm to animals, because the people who do misuse or harm animals with these devices, don't care about the well-being of their animals or the penalties involved.