

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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I am a dog owner, I have 2 German shepherds. One is a 2 1/2 year old boy who weighs 48kg. I have struggled to take him on walks for over a year as he is strong and dog reactive. If he sees a dog he wants to go after it and there has been no way for me to stop him. We have paid thousands of dollars in training and finally found a brilliant trainer who introduced us to a pinch collar (prong collar). First thing I thought was there is no way I am putting that on my gorgeous boy. However the trainer had me put it on my neck and pull like I would if I needed to stop my boy. I did this and while the collar was uncomfortable it did not in anyway hurt me. So I agreed to try it. He taught me how to fit it and then how to use it. Oh my gosh what a game changer this was. My boy within 10 min was walking calmly beside me, he was not pulling he was not showing any signs of discomfort in any way at all. It was like a switch went off. This has changed both his and my life, we can enjoy getting out and about without me fearing he might hurt another dog or drag me across a road in front of a car. Then you come along and try to tell us the only way I can walk my dog is going to be banned. Now that is cruel, not the collar but the people who want to take away the one thing that makes my dog and myself safe outside our gate. I ask each of you before you do this please consider what this will do to so many, maybe have someone who is training people how to use this to show you so you can make a truly informed decision. This will affect many animals and many people.