

**Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022**

**Submission No:** 440  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Make my submission public but keep my name confidential  
**Attachments:** No attachment

**Submitter Comments:**

As a psychotherapist, I recognise the value of companion animals to anyone for their companionship and their role in the alleviation of anxiety, depression and other issues. I use a therapy dog in my work with clients. Many published research articles show the value that companion animals provide to people living on their own - particularly in the reduction of loneliness (a rapidly growing problem), anxiety, stress and depression. Companion animals also ensure that those living on their own get out to exercise that animal, and therefore interact with others, or at least engage with nature. As a small-time, occasional dog breeder, I understand that animals need to be bred ethically, and situated in new homes that are appropriate for the dog and the humans. As a pet-owner, living alone, I know that my dog(s) provide incredible love, connection, and touch, all of which are vital to my own health - mental, emotional and physical. To suggest that I should not use a collar or harness and lead on my dog(s) would be the height of irresponsibility! Even the best-trained dog needs restraint at times - particularly in public places. They also need plenty of opportunity to run free in safety. I demand that "DIVISION 5: 37A Possession or use of prohibited devices" be deleted.