

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Prong collars have been in existence for many many years, and in all of my time and involvement with dogs, I have never seen any injuries resulting in their use. It is almost impossible to injure a dog with one when used correctly. I have actually seen injuries to dogs that have pulled against flat collars and choke chains, and these behaviours can be corrected quickly using a prong collar. The prong/pinch collar is not designed to hurt or injure the dog. Dogs in pain shut down and any training attempts would be difficult or impossible in this state of mind. The prong collar puts pressure all around the dogs neck, like a mother dog does with her puppies when correcting them. They are an incredibly effective tool encouraging the dog to 'listen'. I am currently involved in Malinois rescue. Many of the dogs I rescue are Military washouts placed in the wrong hands. Often the owners have been trying to train their high drive dogs on flat collars because that's what the Positive only trainers recommend. By the time we get these dogs they are reactive and aggressive towards other animals and sometimes people. They are very smart dogs with extremely high drive. The pinch collar is one incredibly effective tool used as part of whole range of training methods. The dogs have a very short window for behavioural retraining. If they come to us fortunately we have a high success rate result resulting in happy well trained dog citizens. If they are unlucky enough to go to the RSPCA, unfortunately their chances of passing the very basic temperament assessment are slim. In my time in Malinois Rescue we have not had a dog come back to rescue, nor had any fail training. Also as a dog lover who also commits to rescuing those other breeders have forsaken, I WOULD NEVER CONDONE ANY DELIBERATE ACT OF CRUELTY. I once thought prong collars were barbaric too, but this judgement was based on pictures only. Since seeing them used so effectively, I am 100% in support of them. Yes, it will be the dogs such as the Malinois I currently rescue that will pay the price for such a poorly researched and knee jerk proposal. For the love of dogs PLEASE DO NOT BAN PRONG COLLARS.