

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [State Development and Regional Industries Committee](#)
Subject: Animal Protection and Care Act - proposed ban of prong collar use
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29 May, 2022

To the Secretary for the State Development & Regional Industries Committee,

I wish to make known that the proposed changes and the ban of dog equipment, namely the prong collar, directly impacts me. I use a prong collar with my high energy and strong Border Collie. I was instructed by my dog trainer NorAus Canine Services as to how to use it humanely, correctly and without causing my dog injury. Little to no pressure is used and corrects his behaviour. Prior to using the prong collar, my dog was hard to manage. I used a slip leash and tried the transition leash. Neither worked. With these, my dog would pull on the lead and not follow commands, regardless of food rewards and positive voice reinforcement. Potential injury to myself could have resulted. Add to this, I found the slip leash hard to instigate a correction by using a sharp tug. I found this confronting and I was concerned this would cause injury.

I was hesitant to try the prong collar because it looks like a medieval torture device and I was concerned that it would cause injury to my dog. This is furthest from the truth. After persistently trying to get my dog to obey using a slip leash, I concluded that I needed assistance. With education and demonstration by my dog trainer and ongoing teaching to make sure that I was using the collar correctly, I can honestly say that it was a game changer for my dog and I.

My dog and I attend regular weekly dog training sessions and we are making much improvement. I no longer have constant worry that my dog will be unruly, disobedient and difficult. The slightest flick of my finger on his lead checks his behaviour and he responds positively. I hate to think where we would be if we didn't have the prong collar in use.

I believe the issue with the prong collar lies with people not being instructed in how to use it correctly. Proper education and practice with a reputable dog trainer eliminate injury and misuse. This is where the efforts of government need to be focussed not on the banning of the device.

My firm belief is that many dogs will be euthanised in response to uncontrollable and negative behaviour should the proposed changes to the Animal Protection and Care Act be enforced. This is grossly unfair to the dogs and their owners. The prong collar when used correctly has positive effects. I love my dog and have no desire to inflict pain on him.

The way in which this proposal has come about is concerning. The population were not notified and the motion to ban prong collars was set. This is not how government ought to be conducted.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa [REDACTED]

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