

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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For my stance on Prong collars here as a business and as a trainer who learns most of what he knows from the dogs themselves. You can learn all about the mechanics of the tool anywhere. I'd like to give you some insight into how I use it myself as a professional and it may surprise you. They are an amazing tool if used CORRECTLY and I have used them to help many people reconnect with dogs that through no fault of their own would have been surrendered or killed for whatever reason. The dog often loves and at least respects me at the end of one of these sessions. Not fear. Dogs aren't stupid. They're capable of understanding if you're hurting them unreasonably. For myself with my dogs, all of my Malinois use the collar for different reasons. None of them heavy handed. The collar is often referred to as power steering for a dog. It's all about using the gentlest touches for maximum effect. Taking control of a massive dog is possible for even the smallest person with correct training, timing and understanding with very little discomfort for either party- and yes many of you know what I mean. Has your dog owned your ass on a walk? Still having problems with your halt harness or choker? All of those tools are proven to damage dogs with long term use. Only MISUSE of this collar can damage a dog. Proven fact. Now since you have gotten this far I'll put you in the mind of my beloved Malinois for just a moment: Dog1 (our boss bitch) was not treated well with a prong collar before she came to us. She at first sight, bit us in a panic for getting one out. Now she loves when we bring hers out. It means work, training & fun. Highly trained weapon full of love and devotion. For Dog2 (My full time partner), he hates to be corrected by it. Using pressure through the lead lets me switch his drives (obedience, prey, defence) fluidly and lock him into whatever position I need him to be. We can work without commands while I deal with customers or problems. Dog3 (18mth trainee), is smart with high drive but often tries the lazy road to new stimuli. It shows him I have control, he has to stay put and deal with or move through the stress I am presenting him with. Given no way out, light corrections or none are needed and he functions with moving forward mindset. Dog4 will launch and blow the doors off at any trigger. She is FAST FAST FAST. On that trigger she would hang herself HARD. Stress? Gooooone. The collar stops her, slows her mind and lets us show her the world at a slower pace. SELF CORRECTED ONLY. Dog5 is BIG and stubborn but super smart. It reminds him who's boss when I handle because he's my business associates little angel. She only uses one on him in public because she is small and has the responsibility of controlling such a large, well trained, high drive dog in a public place. If these collars are taken out of the hands of people who need them it will be like dropping a nuke in the dog world. Please leave these collars alone if you don't understand them and please don't take them away from where they need to be.