

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Submitter Comments:

Regarding the banning of prong collars. The use of prong collars have a purpose and place in dog training and the complete banning of them takes away an important training tool. Firstly they are not inhumane if used correctly. Dogs do not feel the same pain as humans and this cannot be transferred to what pain we think they might suffer. Have you ever seen 2 dogs/ particularly puppies play. They bite each others faces and necks and do not seem to bleed or feel the pain. I have watched my dogs repeatedly do this with other pups their tails wagging and both engaging the entire time. However that puppy nips my skin and it bleeds and hurts. The amount of discomfort a dog may have from a pronged collar when used correctly is minimal and is better than not being able to take a dog out walking at all. If an owner has a large dog who is unresponsive to light correction on a lead or reward, particularly in highly stimulating environments, this may leave the owner little choice but to be either dragged around by their dog (possibly very dangerous for the owner and other owners/dogs/families around) or not take their dog out at all. The use of pronged collars can lead to greater feedback to the dog so they can understand the difference between pulling on the lead and having a loose lead, feedback they may not notice or be able to ignore with a standard collar or harness. Any training tool used incorrectly can be harmful to a dog, and dogs can just as easily suffer from an owner hitting them, yanking on a standard collar or other abusive behaviours. By banning one tool you are limiting the ability of the majority to use it correctly for positive training.