

Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

Submission No: 852
Submitted by: Aussie Pooch Mobile Pty Ltd
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Submitter Comments:

My name is Paul Walters and I am the Managing Director of Aussie Pooch Mobile Australia Pty Ltd. Since commencing business in South East Queensland in 1991, our franchisees have been washing the family pet under guidelines put together by ourselves in consultation with the RSPCA. In these 31 years we have grown to over 200 franchisees nationally, washing on average, 5800 per week. On behalf of our 70 Queensland based franchised mobile groomers, I am writing this submission to request changes in the wording of the amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022. As written in Division 5, 37A "Possession or use of prohibited devices", listed examples of a restraint device include collars, leads, harnesses, muzzles, halters. Our business is mobile dog grooming. To ensure the safety of the dogs in our care, we successfully use fabric slip leads to secure them within the hydrobath. Without the use of these slip leads, a dog could easily jump out of the bath which could result in an injury or worse. Similarly, at times to perform our services safely, muzzles are required to be placed on the dog - not only for our team members' protection, but that of passing pedestrians and passing pets. My concern with the amendments current format, is that the terminology "another restraint device prescribed by regulation" as well as "unless the person has a reasonable excuse" are very broad terms which can be interpreted in several ways, and very open ended. Whilst slip collars and muzzles are currently not prohibited, I feel that including them in the amendment allows them to be introduced at a later stage without consultation. I request that you please consider removing the following text from 37A:1(b) "another restraint device prescribed by regulation". 3(b) restraint device means a device fitted to an animal for the purpose of restraining it. Examples— collars, leads, harnesses, muzzles, halters Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.