

## Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022

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Wednesday, 1 June 2022

Mr Chris Whiting MP  
Member for Bancroft  
Chair, State Development and Regional Industries Committee  
Queensland Parliament

email: [SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:SDRIC@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Mr Whiting,

**Re. Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022**

The Canine Control Council (Queensland), trading as Dogs Queensland, is a member of the internationally recognised Australian National Kennel Council Ltd (Dogs Australia) and is the leading body of expertise on dogs in the State. Dogs Queensland is the premier dog organisation with over 6500 members and the governing body of 150 clubs in 18 different disciplines. Dogs Queensland processes new registrations for over 16,000 pure-bred puppies whelped in the state each year.

Dogs Queensland was established in 1948 and manages the registration of pure-bred dogs, the running of conformation dog shows dog sports trials, obedience and training (run by clubs under the auspices of Dogs Queensland), judges training and certification in Queensland.

Dog clubs in various forms have been in existence in Queensland for over 100 years. Dogs Queensland clubs and their members have a long history of promoting responsible dog ownership, education and training, ethical breeding and canine health and welfare. A high standard of animal welfare is a priority of our members which is underpinned by self-regulatory codes of conduct. These values have been formalised in the Dogs Queensland Rules and Code of Ethics. These documents set down the minimum requirements and expectations of how members are to handle and protect the welfare of their dogs.

There are 150 clubs across Queensland, spread from the New South Wales border, north to Cairns and west to Cloncurry. These clubs are run by dedicated volunteers and actively promote responsible dog ownership through a variety of activities including, but not limited to, dog shows, dog sports trials, dog training and obedience, and other educational activities.

There are 33 dedicated dog sport clubs, sometime referred to as obedience clubs, that have a specific interest in dog training. Many of these clubs run dog training classes which are open to the public. The focus of these classes is to promote responsible dog ownership and establish good dog behaviour through basic obedience skills. Training is conducted under the principles of positive reinforcement training techniques.

[www.dogsqueensland.org.au](http://www.dogsqueensland.org.au)



Dogs Queensland has reviewed the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022 (the Bill) and the proposed amendments to the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (the Act), with a particular focus on matters related to dogs, and provides the following submissions in response to the following elements of the Bill:

- Amendment to section 24 Docking dog's tail.
  - Dogs Queensland supports this amendment. We note that only veterinary surgeons are authorised to dock a dog's tail, and this procedure can be done if it is in the best interest of the dog.
- Amendment to section 28 Restriction on supplying debarked dog
  - Dogs Queensland supports this amendment. We note the additional requirements for pounds and animal shelters.
- Amendment to section 29 Other restrictions
  - Dogs Queensland supports this amendment. We note the additional requirements for pounds and animal shelters.
- New section, 29A Restriction for person supplied animal that has undergone regulated procedure
  - Dogs Queensland supports this amendment. We note that this places a responsibility on the owner/person in charge of the dog to have the certificate available for inspection.
- Amendment to section 33 replacing Obligation to exercise closely confined dogs with Transporting dogs.
  - Dogs Queensland supports the inclusion of requirements for transporting dogs in vehicles and on the tray of a vehicle or trailer.
  - Of concern is the omission of requirements to exercise closely confined dogs. Unlike livestock, there are no protections for a dog kept in close confinement for extended periods including during transport (refer Schedule 3, Animal Care and Protection Regulation 2012).
  - It is recommended that obligations to exercise closely confined dogs remain in the Act.
- New section, 37A Possession or use of prohibited devices
  - Dogs Queensland supports the banning of prong collars as detailed in the proposed new section 37A (1) (a). This aligns with Dogs Queensland's values regarding animal welfare, responsible dog ownership and the principles of positive reinforcement training.
  - The banning of prong collars in Queensland aligns with section 4(1) and item 10 in Schedule 2, of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956 (Aus) which prohibits the importation of prong collars into Australia. Also of note is that prong collars are banned in Victoria as detailed in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2019 (Vic).



- The restriction imposed on other restraint devices as detailed in section 37A (1) (b) is less clearly defined and gives rise to a number of concerns when it is considered alongside the examples provided in the definition in section 37A (4)
  - Collars, leads, harnesses and halters are highly effective restraint devices used routinely by dog owners. The current wording implies that these commonly used, safe and effective items could be prohibited.
  - Muzzles when correctly used are an effective way to protect people, dogs and other animals, in certain circumstances. They are a useful tool in controlling reactive dogs and are routinely used by the owners of these dogs to avoid potential incidents. It is also worth noting that prohibiting the use of muzzles would contravene section 3, Schedule 1 of the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* (Qld) which requires that declared dangerous and menacing dogs must be muzzled when not in a relevant place.
  - Greater clarity is required in section 37A (1) (b) in order to better define what is a prohibited device and avoid public confusion. Given that penalties apply, it is not appropriate to simply leave this open and to be prescribed by regulation. We recommend amending section 37A (1) (b) to “another restraint device as prescribed by regulation that inflicts severe pain or suffering or causes serious injury or prolonged suffering”. This amendment would ensure there is a test provided in the legislation before a device is included in the regulation which in turn is consistent with the purpose of the legislation and aligns with section 242 (2) of the *Criminal Code Act 1899* (Qld).
- New section, 37C Firing or blistering on horses and dogs
    - Dogs Queensland supports this amendment. This aligns with Dogs Queensland’s values regarding animal welfare and responsible dog ownership.
  - New section, 41B Euthanasing sick or injured animals by veterinary surgeons
    - Dogs Queensland supports this amendment. This new section provides reassurance and safeguards if a dog must be euthanased.

Dogs Queensland supports the over-arching principles of the Bill, which are to modernise the Act to reflect current scientific research and community expectations. As the leading dog registration body in the State and a significant stakeholder, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to discuss how Dogs Queensland could assist the Queensland Government in promoting animal welfare and educating the community with respect to responsible dog ownership in Queensland.

Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr Rob Harrison, General Manager, Dogs Queensland, phone 3252 2661 or email [info@dogsqueensland.org.au](mailto:info@dogsqueensland.org.au).

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ulla Greenwood".

Ulla Greenwood  
President

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