

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

**Submission No:** 1309  
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**Publication:** Make my submission public but keep my name confidential  
**Attachments:** See attachment  
**Submitter Comments:**

## State Development and Regional Industries Committee

### Submission on proposed amendments to the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001

On the 8th of May, the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk announced on social media that the Queensland Government is banning the prong collar, a dog training tool, via an amendment to the Animal Protection and Care Act 2001.

The amendment also includes potentially far-reaching provisions that will enable the Government to ban any other “restraint devices” at any time. Restraint devices are defined as:

*A device fitted to an animal for the purpose of restraining it. Examples— collars, leads, harnesses, muzzles, halters.*

In the initial process of amending the Act, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries released a discussion paper to initiate the review, which was then put forward to the community to provide feedback on proposed changes.

In that initial paper, the proposed changes detailed by the Queensland Government **did not mention restrictions to dog training tools**. Indeed, **training dogs was not mentioned at all** as a focus of the proposed reforms.

The proposed prong collar ban will greatly affect some dog trainers, professional dog handlers such as those in the police and military, pet owners, dog welfare organisations, and members of the public who may be affected by dog owners losing the ability to use an effective tool.

The Queensland Government needs to hear from key stakeholders, including:

- Members of the Queensland Government currently utilising these training tools, including police and military units
- Dog trainers
- Animal welfare organisations
- Members of the public who own dogs or have dogs living in their community

**The legislative process should be halted until meaningful consultation with the community is undertaken.**

I have competed with my own German Shepherd at the highest level of dog obedience offered by Dogs Australia. Part of her training was conducted on a prong collar. This tool is very effective, safe and comfortable for the dog when used correctly, which is not difficult to learn.