

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

**Submission No:** 1363  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Make my submission public but keep my name confidential  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I do not support this amendment to ban the use of the prong collar or any other training aid used for dog training. From my observations and education the prong collar has become more sophisticated in its use by dog trainers over the years and offered real life saving (for the dog) behaviour modification solutions. Removal of this tool will lead families without alternatives to euthanising the dog for behavioural reasons when the problem is actually fixable. Positive reinforcement methods do work for the majority of dogs and these are to be used as a first line. However there are some dogs that have the genetics and life experiences that require additional training aids such as the prong collar to alter the behaviour of the dog so it can live a good life in the community. We have not taken a decision to ban guns even though they are dangerous and can kill people. Instead we have licensed their use that requires education and demonstration of proficiency. This would be a logical step for the prong collar and other similar training aids in that they are available to those that are licensed and can demonstrate the right skill in using them. As a dog owner who has worked at an animal shelter for 7 years and has rescued 5 dogs each with their own behaviour modification needs. I have consulted with many dog trainers and training organisations, such as the RSPCA over the years. I have educated myself on positive reinforcement methods and have experience in their success and their limitations across the 5 dogs I have trained over their entire life time. Positive only training takes time, dedication, commitment to get behaviour change in the more extreme cases. Not all families have the type of dedication I have shown and would be unwilling to spend years managing the dog and slowly altering their way of thinking through positive only methods. Sometimes a quicker solution is what is required, so the dog can remain a happy dog in the home. I have seen the impact on dogs who bounce from the Shelter into a home and back into a Shelter because the family was unable to live with the dog's behaviour. Some dogs arrive at the Shelter for a third or fourth time in their lifetime and spend 6 months or more at the shelter waiting for a family willing to take them into their home. A skilled trainer needs all the tools they have been trained to use to help a family live with their dog. For the sake of all dogs' lives I ask you to consult widely with those dog trainers doing complex behaviour modification with Queensland families.