

15th April 2019

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Dog Standards and Guidelines Consultation
Animal Welfare Regulation

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to oppose some of the new standards proposed in the Draft Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Dogs in WA, specifically those outlined below;

The flat ban on prong collars

S12.2 Prong collars must not be used on a dog.

The adjustments to the accepted method of use of Electronic Collars, points (a) & (b)

S13.1 An electronic collar must only be used on a dog in accordance with the generally accepted method of use. For the purposes of these Standards, the generally accepted method of use includes:

(a) if a reasonable and documented effort has been made to use other training techniques to modify behaviour and these have not been effective;

(b) a veterinarian has examined the health and temperament of the dog and reasonably believes that the dog is suitable to wear an electronic collar.

My dog and I have had positive personal experiences with prong and electric collars. We first engaged The Holistic Hound when we were having troubles with my now 2 year old male American Staffordshire, Bear. Although friendly his excitement levels would escalate very quickly sometimes ending in a little tiff due to his boisterous nature. I knew two things, I needed to teach Bear proper socialisation and a reliable recall if I was to continue to have him off lead. Having Bear off lead meant he had the freedom he so craved and ultimately was able to get the exercise he needed.

Lauren from The Holistic Hound introduced us to the above mentioned tools with a holistic approach to training Bear. Time and consideration was taken in explaining how these tools work and what sort of precautions need to be taken to ensure they are used properly, causing no harm to Bear. Through several training sessions I can confidently let Bear off lead by having combined the stim with positive reinforcement he has learnt to cap his excitement levels.

I am opposed to the above regulations for the following reasons.

1: I strongly believe banning the above mentioned tools will drive the use underground furthermore making it difficult to regulate, increasing the chances of improper use in the wrong hands.

2: Not all dogs and situations allow a dog to respond to positive training only. These tools have saved lives and will continue to do so through the proper channels.

3: Dogs that would otherwise be left to euthanasia have another option of training that could ultimately lead them to being rehomed and very sociable.

If we were unable to access these tools Bears training would have halted and ultimately he would not be able to live as fully as he does. We would not be able to have him in distraction areas without potential hazards. He is able to socialise properly and safely under control at all times.

Megan du Preez

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission. I would be happy to substantiate the above information by answering any questions or submit further if needed as I feel so strongly about this cause.

Kind Regards,

Megan du Preez

Client of
The Holistic Hound Dog Training
Lauren Maslen (Owner-Operator)

ABN: 38 322 407 514

