

From: Amy Matthews [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2019 11:13 AM
To: dog.standards@dpird.wa.gov.au
Subject: New proposed dog standards

Hi,

I'm writing in regards to the recent draft of new dog welfare guidelines, whilst there are many good laws in the proposal there are also many which would be a disaster if they were to be passed.

My concerns are about the following guidelines:

- ban of prong collar
- heavy restriction on e collars
- couple hour limit on crate containment

Prong collar ban:

The prong collar is a tool which I only came to learn about last year, I always thought it looked horrendous and whilst I still think it doesn't look nice it is a tool that is very effective and doesn't harm the dog in any way. I have personally used it on myself and it can't physically pierce the skin even though many people say it can, these people have not personally used it and they have just seen photos of dogs after people have used altered prongs by either sharpening or using a thick collar with nails inserted into it.

This tool is less harmful to dogs than someone yanking on a flat collar as they take the frustration out because they can't stop the dog from pulling. With the prong they feel the collar tighten and slow down as they do they feel it loosen so they learn how to turn the pressure off and stop pulling.

Heavy restrictions on e collars:

E collars are a completely misunderstood tool, people think they are a shock collar but in fact they work on muscle stimulation so like a TENS machine which is widely used to relieve muscle tension in humans. E collars work on getting the dogs attention not inflicting pain. They are a "hey" or a tap on the shoulder rather than an electric shock. E collars help to save many dogs lives who have reactivity and aggression problems, they can also help with obedience and recall.

By banning people from using these tools we could be putting dogs lives at risk.

Couple hour restriction on crate containment:

Dogs work really well when they have a routine, my dogs know when I put jazz music on and they are put in their crates it is quiet time and they go to sleep. My dogs like their crates and it keeps them safe when I'm not home. Keeping my dogs safe is a top priority for me and as one of my dogs has the tendency to eat things that shouldn't be consumed it keeps her safe. Crates are also very helpful with multiple dog households to avoid conflicts and give dogs time to themselves, a safe place is what I like to call it.

I understand people alter, misuse or make terrible and cheap copies of these tools but ban them people or make people take a course in it don't ban them all together. It will only damage our dogs and in my opinion cause more attacks as a result of not being able to train our dogs properly. Don't ban the tool ban the person misusing it.

Thank you, Amy Matthews

(I have attained a Certificate III in Dog Behaviour and Training through NDTF which I believe gives me a great insight into these tools and great knowledge in dog behaviour)