

23<sup>rd</sup> 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.*

I own a 4-year-old Cavalier named Rupert and 2-year-old Tilly. We have had Lauren's help for a while now Lauren has helped immensely with both their leash manners and recall training. We tried various alternative methods – harnesses, check chains and progressed onto a slip lead and food training has been great but not a 100% successful so eventually decided to try an E collar on Rupert and it has been an absolute miracle. Rupert is convinced that he can catch kangaroos so last night he gave chase and nothing would stop him calling or knowing I had food so I lost sight of him and gave the e-collar a go and thankfully he returned. We have been using it for a few months now and it is the best tool we have ever invested in for our dog. He gets more walks now than he was before and I know he is enjoying the freedom – thus improving his quality of life.

Lauren understood that I was a little apprehensive about putting such a scary looking tool on my dog, but assured me that it was a safer option than being lost in the bush or getting run over by a car as he tends to bolt. We weren't just handed the tool and left to figure it out for ourselves – Lauren was with us every step of the way ensuring that we knew how to use the tool correctly and safely on Rupert. I would never put a tool on my dog that I believed would hurt him and I strongly disagree with people who believe these tools are barbaric (I have had an e-collar on my arm and have been "popped" – how a dog would be given a correction – and it doesn't hurt at all). When used correctly it is an amazing tool. I believe that the person BEHIND the tool and the lack of education on how to correctly and safely use it on your dog is what has caused those horrible pictures you regularly see doing the rounds on Facebook. The tool itself is exactly that – a tool – and it's a bloody good one. The use of these tools along with a holistic approach (Lauren literally wrote out 3 pages worth of info

of how to improve Rupert and Tilly's life at home and our relationship to achieve better training results, is a perfect pair when it comes to effectively changing a dog's behaviour.

I oppose the ban on prong and e-collars, I have seen the results they can achieve with my own dog and have seen Lauren help many other dogs who have behaviour issues far more intricate and dangerous than Rupert and Tilly's. If I were to have to stop using my Ecollar we would be back to square 1 and his ability to positive only training being THE ONLY option as that never worked. Training really ought to come from a balanced approach and I don't believe one type of training should be used on every dog. It's like children – each learns differently. No one approach is "correct". Whatever is going to help that certain dog the most is what should be I believe dog trainers should be able to prescribe these tools to clients who need them as a part of a training program. Lauren already does this with all of her clients and she has invested so much time, energy, money and absolute heart into her business and genuinely wants the best for the dog and their owners. Her reviews speak for themselves. I strongly stand by the misuse of these tools being down to the person behind the tool being uneducated. With proper education from a dog trainer these tools are miracle workers. By taking away these tools from dog trainers and owners you are preventing issues from being resolved, creating new issues as the number of sessions used to change a dog's behaviour will need to increase and as these to change a dog's behaviour, adding more expense to clients and preventing dogs from living their best lives.


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,

Michelle Pearce



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



ABN: 38 322 407 514

