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**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 have a two year old female Kelpie x border collie. I have attended basic training classes, engaged a behaviourist and attend training classes with a local trainer regularly. My dog being a working dog has a high prey drive and despite all this training would bolt off and toward other dogs, sometimes she can become reactive at times which is very stressful for me. Through training with The Holistic Hound I have purchased a top quality e-collar, I have tried it on myself and I would argue it is nothing like a "shock" rather a tingling sensation similar to a tens machine, used in soft tissue repair on humans. I consider it an email collar as it gives me Wifi with my dog! It is purely a communication tool which covers over 500m. I always have it on my dog when she is off lead to ensure my control and give her freedom. The e-collar has been a lifesaver for me and has meant safe off lead time for my dog. She only wears it off lead and only at low levels. I have not found it to change her personality or trust in me at all. Should e-collar be banned my dog would be confined to leash walking which would be detrimental to her natural instincts as a working dog. After initial familiarisation under training conditions it would be a rare occasion that I actually use it, but it's there just incase.

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,

Bev Smith

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

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