

Sarah Campbell

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Agree with these amendments

As a member of the Pet Professional Guild Australia and Association of Pet Dog Trainers

Australia Inc. I am a professional trainer with over ten years experience with my own dog training business and train using positive reinforcement based, force-free methods. Along with my certificate IV in Companion Animal Services (Delta Society), I have continued my education over the years to ensure my skills remain best practice. On top of group training classes, I also undertake behavioural consultation with pet owners, work with mindDOG and Care Dogs and Co Tas training assistance dogs as well as assessing dogs for therapy dog work with Story Dogs. I deal with a variety of dog behavioural issues from general obedience ,seperation anxiety to aggression issues. I work alongside both my local vets and vet behaviourists on a number of these cases where the medical needs of the dogs needs to be investigated and managed.

I'm also a committee member (secretary) of the Pet Professional Guild Australia, which is a membership organisation representing pet industry professionals who are committed to science-based, force-free training and pet care. Our focus is on advocating, educating and encouraging improvements in companion animal welfare through the use of fear free techniques. Our member's skills and knowledge are maintained to the highest standard through continued education from trainers and researchers across the world.

As a member of the PPGA we must adhere to being force free - No shock, no pain, no choke, no fear, no physical force and no compulsion/aversive based methods.

A skilled trainer with a good knowledge of behaviour modification, learning theory , canine behaviour and body language knows how to set up the dog for success and train any behaviour without the need for aversive methods (such as prong collars).

A prong collar is considered an aversive training technique as it utilises both Positive Punishment (adding an aversive to decrease a behaviour) and Negative Reinforcement (Delaying an aversive to increase a behaviour). A prong collar is designed to be 'aversive' to the dog by applying an unpleasant stimulus that the dog is aiming to avoid.

I have attached the Pet Professional Guild Australia submission as additional documentation, which provides additional evidence to the not only the physical harm but the psychological harm and long term effects that these techniques can cause.