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I wish to object strongly to the ban on the use of prong collars.

The description in the proposed amendment states that

""...when the collar is tightened, it pinches the skin around the animals neck""

I dispute this statement.

When a prong collar is placed around a human arm, leg or neck we feel pressure but absolutely no pinching. I would question whether the proponents of this amendment have ever felt the pressure from this tool or indeed ever handled one. Many inexperienced dog trainers recoil at a picture of a prong collar and wrongly conclude it is detrimental to a dog.

The prong collar is designed to apply pressure to the animals neck but there is no way it can pinch.

I submit that this statement is incorrect.

I am a dog trainer with over 12 years experience having graduated from the National Dog Training Federation Certificate III course in 2014.

I have had personal experience using prong collars and have undergone personal one on one training with internationally experienced dog trainers Forest Micki and Steve Courtney in the use of these collars.

They are not the type of tool I use often but on the few occasions I have needed them I can categorically state that they have improved the life of that animal and very likely saved its life.

These collars are not employed as first, second or even third option.

But there are some dogs that just do not respond to any type of collar or harness and for whom pulling and reacting to external stimuli is far more rewarding.

Let me instance the last time I used this tool.

A lady of slight stature rescued a 10 month old large bull arab cross which had not been socialised and had been left in a pen 24/7 and thrown scraps to eat.

The dog has a lovely personality and will make an excellent pet for my client, however she was unable to control the dog on walks as it was reactive to other dogs and had pulled her over and escaped her grasp a few times.

She was unsure about employing the prong collar but after asking her to have an open mind and demonstrated how it was used, she was a convert..

The collar is introduced in a low distraction area where the dog can feel some pressure if he pulls so much so that he immediately realises that pulling is going to be uncomfortable. Dogs are smart and quickly realise that pulling against this collar is not in their best interests.

No other collar can achieve this and for this lady we had instant success. She is now able to walk her dog with confidence and in the next year or so, as he matures, we will transit away from the prong collar.

My client had been contemplating handing this dog into the Dogs Home and had this happened there is a strong probability that, because of his behaviour and the policies of the Dogs Home around the use of prong collars, he may not have been adopted and thus, eventually euthanized.

I am the first to admit that these collars have the appearance of a medieval torture instrument and I was a little shocked when I first saw one.

But it's a case of "You don't know what you don't know" and after seeing them demonstrated I understood their place as a dog training tool.

I can say with absolute certainty that prong collars do save dogs lives and if their use is banned dogs will be unnecessarily euthanised.

I would welcome the opportunity to present in person if this is at all possible.