



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

Operated by Tasmanian Canine Defence League Inc.

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SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT ANIMAL WELFARE ACT AMENDMENT BILL 2022

This submission has been prepared by the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania.

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What sector do you represent? -Animal Welfare Organisation

SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Animal Welfare Act Amendment Bill 2022.

The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania is one of Tasmania's leading animal welfare organisations in support of the separate submission regarding the inclusion of sentience of animals in the Animal Welfare Act by the following organisations:

- RSPCA Tasmania
- Dogs' Homes of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Dog Walkers Association
- Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary
- Companion Animal Network Australia

In addition, we seek the following amendment:

Section 8 amended (cruelty to animals)

Inclusion of the omitted word 'may', removal of redundant reference to the pest register and the ban of use of a pronged collar.

Whilst we commend the inclusion of the ban on the use of a pronged collar, Section 8 of the Act requires further amendment to make it clear that pronged collars should not be used on any animal at any time for any purpose.



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Section 8 of the Act currently states in Section (8)(2), including the proposed amendment to add subparagraph (ja):

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), a person is guilty of an offence under that subsection if the person –

(i) in the course of any sport or public performance or in the training for any sport or public performance, applies or exposes an electronic device to an animal; or

(j) uses a spur, or other like appliance, with sharpened rowels on an animal; or

(ja) uses a pronged collar, or a similar collar, on an animal; or

(k) does any other prescribed act.

We suggest the words "*in the course of any sport or public performance or in the training for any sport or public performance*" be deleted as these words appear to permit the use of electronic devices, spurs or pronged collars in circumstances other than "*in the course of any sport or public performance or in the training for any sport or public performance*".

The deletion of those words would make it clear that pronged collars should not be used on any animal at any time for any purpose.

This amendment and the proposed inclusion of the sentience of animals are endorsed as an important initial step in clarifying and safeguarding the welfare of animals in Tasmania.