

To whom it may concern,

My name is Simon Bishop and I have been involved in training my own dogs for a few years now and am very concerned about the proposed changes in regards to prong collars which would make it an animal cruelty offence.

I have been using a prong collar for about three years now and have had such wonderful success in communicating with my dogs and building a much stronger relationship with them. Like most people I too was taken back by their appearance at first but once I learned how they actually work and are a much safer and humane tool to use on your dog I have never looked back. I was able to have the knowledge and experience passed onto me from a professional trainer and it completely changed how myself and my wife were able to give our dogs a more fulfilling life.

My wife is able to easily control our dogs if a situation arise that needed it. My dogs actually get excited when they see the collar as they know it means they are off on another adventure. Having the ability to easily control your dog/s enables you to take them to so many more places and let them experience many more fun times.

These collars enable you to quickly and precisely communicate with your dog, especially if you own a large powerful breed. There is a reason all professional working dog handlers use these tools and that is because they are wonderfully effective. Myself and all other dog owners I know that use them would never use a tool that was harmful or inflicted pain on our beloved dogs.

If these tools are removed and everyone is forced to use only positive reinforcement training there will be a huge influx of dogs into care where owners cannot control them leading to more dogs being destroyed. I understand that some dogs may do just fine in a positive only environment however that does not suit most dogs.

As there is already legislation in place to protect animal welfare, I cannot see how banning one tool will help in anyway. I understand the emotive side of this argument by their appearance, however all people I know that use them quickly became fans of them when they learned how much safer they are on a dog. Many dogs sustain injuries from flat collars however I've never been able to find any injuries to a dog from a prong collar. If these collars did cause pain and injuries to dogs there is no way I would ever use one on my dogs.

Thankyou for reading my submission and I hope this matter is looked at with facts and not emotive reactions based on the appearance of the collar.

Simon Bishop

