

To whom it may concern

The Hobart Dog Walking Association Inc (HDWA) wishes to make the following comments about the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2022 (Tasmania). The HDWA was formed in 2006 and is a member organisation of Tasmania Dog Walking Clubs Inc. Our members are long-term pet owners with diverse experience including animal welfare, dog training, showing and breeding.

Pronged collars

Pronged collars should be banned. Contemporary dog training practices focus on positive reinforcement. Some dog training clubs do not permit choke-chains. We also note more dog walkers are attaching leads to harnesses, as opposed to the collar, when walking their dogs.

Sentience

We cannot understand why the *Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2022* (Tasmania) has not included recognising animals as sentient beings able to subjectively feel and perceive the world around them.

On 26 September 2019, the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) passed legislation recognising animals as sentient. By doing so, the ACT recognised the science that animals are sentient and can feel emotion and pain. The new legislation amended the ACT's *Animal Welfare Act 1992*.

The main objectives of the ACT Act are to recognise:

- animals are sentient beings
- animals have intrinsic value and deserve to be treated with compassion and have a quality of life that reflects their intrinsic value; and
- people have a duty to care for the physical and mental welfare of animals

The ACT has made provisions to achieve the objects of the Act by:

- promoting and protecting the welfare of animals; and
- providing for the proper and humane care, management and treatment of animals; and
- deterring and preventing animal cruelty and the abuse and neglect of animals; and
- enforcing laws about the matters mentioned in the above points.

Other provisions in the ACT Act include:

- increased penalties for hitting or kicking an animal
- prohibiting electric shock collars for dogs

- shield from civil and criminal liability those who forcibly enter a locked vehicle to rescue an animal in distress. Animal welfare groups in Tasmania have had public awareness campaigns about dogs dying in hot cars for at least 20 years.

When the ACT legislation was introduced the HDWA noted media coverage that people would be fined if they didn't walk their dogs daily. The media coverage was inaccurate. The new ACT legislation does not mandate dog walking but includes a new criminal offence around failure to exercise the dog through egregious confinement such as caging or chaining for prolonged periods of time. A person is not in violation of the ACT law if the dog is kept in a yard or residence in a way that it can move freely.

The ACT legislation also includes new affirmative duties to provide a clean and hygienic living environment, appropriate grooming and maintenance, and, more generally, "care that is appropriate for the animal's wellbeing" (in addition to food, water, shelter, veterinary care, and opportunities to display normal behaviour).

On behalf of the Hobart Dog Walking Association members, thank you for this opportunity to have input.

Your sincerely

Tanzi

Tanzi Lewis (Ms)
President
Hobart Dog Walking Association Inc

hobartdogwalkers@gmail.com

Phone [REDACTED]

HDWA Committee:

- Ms Tanzi Lewis, President
- Ms Melissa Fraser, Vice-president
- Ms Ros Henry, Secretary
- Ms Kay Allport, Treasurer
- Dr Philip Eldridge
- Ms Jean Symes
- Ms Della O'Brien
- Ms Sabina Rainer Smith
- Dr Sandy Hudd