

8<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Dear Legislative Scrutiny Committee,

I'm writing to express my support in relation to the ANIMAL PROTECTION AND RELATED LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2025.

As a long-term Northern Territory (NT) resident and veterinary professional, it comes with great relief to see the proposed legislative changes be put forward. I am writing to express my full support for all changes proposed in the bill.

Working in the veterinary industry I have witness first-hand the challenges lack of powers a welfare officer has in being able to support animals and community in managing welfare issues. This has often come at the detriment of animal welfare and repeat issues being seen in the veterinary clinic settings due to lack of infringement and enforcement powers of officers.

I commend the proposed changes that strongly align with best practice in the industry which means that those working with animals professionally can now work even more directly and strongly with animal welfare officers to support positive change in the Northern Territory.

I am particularly pleased to see the changes to the banning of "prong collars". This is a significant leap forward in terms of best practice in welfare and health of animals. Over my 10+ years in the Territory I have seen hundreds of injuries present to clinics as a direct result of these devices used by dog trainers and the broader community. I have personally managed the recovery of injuries of animals requiring surgical intervention of these devices, which could have been prevented with a ban of these devices. It will also see our legislation acknowledge that the emerging body of research (100s of veterinary studies) on this has not been ignored and we are moving into a new and era of strong welfare practices that put the needs of animals first.

It is also commendable to see the proposed changes to the powers of entry for welfare officers. The role of an animal welfare officer is challenging, and these legislative changes support the value in promoting welfare in the community and further highlights the NT moving out of the dark ages in its welfare legislation towards becoming a leading jurisdiction in Australia.

I wish to again reiterate my support for the proposed changes and encourage the Assembly to pass the Bill in its entirety. As a veterinary professional I strongly purport that these changes better support and advocate to the rights and liberties of individuals that previous versions of this legislation.

Kind regards,

Dr. Roslyn Barker (BA (HONS), GCUTL, RVN, PhD)

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