



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2024



PROFESSIONAL DOG TRAINERS AUSTRALIA

The PDTA represents numerous Australian dog trainers, behaviour consultants, and their substantial clientele. Our dedicated members strive to achieve positive outcomes for dogs and owners through effective education and training



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Professional Dog Trainers Australia (PDTA)

Professional Dog Trainers Australia (PDTA) represents numerous Australian dog trainers, behaviour consultants, and their substantial clientele. Our dedicated members strive to achieve positive outcomes for dogs and owners through effective education and training.

As a collective of Australia's most experienced and educated dog trainers and behaviour consultants, we possess deep knowledge and expertise in dog behaviour, training, and psychology. Our members have a wealth of insights that can drive effective policy, combining formal education, practical experience, and notable achievements in working with dogs.

We are not just a group of professionals, but a community that consistently stays updated on the latest developments in our field. We are frequently sought after for our opinions, advice, and consultation. The PDTA board members alone hold a collective experience of over 200 years. We are dedicated to sharing knowledge, valuing the contributions of each member, through various avenues such as authoring articles, giving talks, conducting research, participating in conferences, and providing training and consultancy services.

By fostering education and informed decision-making, we play a pivotal role in advancing the field of dog training, behaviour modification, and overall management. This directly benefits dog owners, both current and future, within Australia.

The PDTA are available for consultation and assistance with legislation development.



Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Page 15

The PDTA **strongly recommend** that **Section 4 1(b) is removed** given 10 key reasons as described on page 15 of this submission.

The PDTA **strongly recommends** that the Dog and Cat Management Board engage with the PDTA and the three long-standing IGP Dogsport Associations in Australia (WGSDCA, WDFA, and WMA). This collaboration aims to resolve misconceptions about the sport and work together on developing strategies for responsible dog ownership and ethical breeding practices.

Recommendation 2 – Page 16

To ensure a balanced perspective, especially since the Board accredits training programs and tests dog behaviour, the PTDA recommend that at least one position appointed by the Minister be filled by a qualified professional dog trainer with extensive experience in the pet dog industry **and** competition dog sport.

Recommendation 3 – Page 17

The PDTA **recommends** creating a register of dog bite incidents with additional data. Full details of this recommendation can be found on page 17

Recommendation 4 – Page 19

The PDTA **recommend** the **removal of s(1)(a)** for compulsory muzzling of racing greyhounds in a public place to promote a fairer, evidence-based approach to dog management and improve public perception and welfare of greyhounds.

Non-existent Regulations for the Amendment Bill

The PDTA condemns the inclusion of clauses referring to non-existent regulations. It is imperative that new regulations are not introduced or referenced without prior consultation with key stakeholders or the public. Such measures should not be implemented at the whims of a government department or minister.



Response to the Draft Bill

Section 4 Amendment

4—Amendment of section 4—Interpretation

(1) Section 4, definition of *attack trained dog*—delete "training, to attack a person on command;" and substitute:

training—

(a) to attack a person on command; or

(b) in the sport of Internationale Gebrauchshund Pruefung (however described);

Note—

This sport is also known as Schutzhund, IGO or IGP.

The PDTA, drawing on extensive expertise in dog training and sports competition, **strongly opposes** the inclusion of the sport Internationale Gebrauchshund Pruefung (also known as Schutzhund IPO or IGP) under the definition of attack-trained dog.

Classifying IGP dogsport as attack dog training misrepresents an internationally recognised dogsport that promotes responsible dog ownership and ethical breeding practices, thereby reducing the risks of dog bite incidents in the community.

Furthermore, this classification directly conflicts with the goals of the proposed amendments to South Australian legislation, particularly the addition of the objective to require breeders of dogs to adhere to standards and guidelines that provide for the welfare of dogs involved in breeding programs.

Additionally, the PDTA noted that the South Australian Government did not consult with any of Australia's three long-standing IGP associations before releasing the Draft Bill namely:

- Working German Shepherd Dog Clubs of Australasia Inc (WGSDCA)
- Working Dog Federation Australia (WDFa)
- Working Malinois Australia (WMA)

IGP is not attack training for dogs.

IGP dogsport has been misrepresented with its inclusion in this draft bill.

IGP dogsport is an internationally recognised FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale) sport used to promote the welfare of working dog breeds. It fosters discipline, teamwork, and obedience. In IGP, trainers shape the dog's instincts to be well-defined, well-controlled, and performed under the FCI IGP Rules and Regulations. We note that the Dog and Cat Management Board have published on their website that an attack-trained dog "*support police or armed forces duties*". IGP-trained dogs do not support police or armed forces in their operational duties. Furthermore, IGP differs significantly from attack dog training in objectives and methods. Ben Guertz, a PDTA Member with over 20 years of experience as a Military Working Dog handler and trainer, highlights the distinct differences in his video here >> <https://youtu.be/6rryhCGNEIE>



IGP does not pose a risk to public safety.

In a 1998 court case involving a dangerous dog decision by the Victorian Casey City Council (Burns vs. Casey City Council), an IGP-trained dog had its initial classification as dangerous set-aside. The judge described the training as "*a sterile and hollow sport*", concluding that it was far removed from "*attack dog training*" and ruled the dog not to be dangerous. (Burns v Casey CC (1997/20023) [1998] VICCAT (July 17th 1998) – Ref Appendix 1)

In 2005, the Australian Minister for Agriculture and Forestry included IGP dogsport as a recreational canine sport.

In 2009, the Victorian German Shepherd Dog Council Australia (GSDCA) Member Club (GSDCV), in conjunction with the Dogs Australia Member State Body, Dogs Victoria, obtained an Order of Council which saw imported IGP/IPO titled dogs to be exempt from the Victorian Dangerous Dog Legislation under the provision.

The GSDCV sought the exemption based on experience proving that IGP/IPO-titled dogs presented no danger to the public due to their breeding, temperament, and training.

The South Australian government reviewed IGP in 2010 and 2016. It concluded that it does not fall under the definition of attack dog training upon each review.

Furthermore, less than 100 IGP-trained dogs are currently in South Australia, and a smaller number of those dogs have been trained in sleeve work. No data from South Australia indicates that these dogs have been involved in a dog bite incident.

IGP promotes responsible dog breeding practices.

Classifying IGP dogsport as attack training is in direct conflict with South Australia's commitment to responsible dog breeding practices.

IGP is a sport and an internationally recognised breed assessment program designed to evaluate and validate the quality and suitability of dogs used in breeding. Dog breeders who embrace the IGP breeding standards differ from other dog breeders.

Dog breeders who compete in IGP thoroughly evaluate temperament, health, and working ability to ensure they temperamentally sound and healthy dogs. They perform extensive health tests, comply with international performance standards, and consistently educate themselves on breeding best practices.

Many IGP breeders offer lifetime support to puppy owners, helping them with training, health issues, and other concerns. This commitment ensures that dogs are well cared for throughout their lives and decreases the likelihood of abandonment or surrender to rescues/shelters.

Conversely, irresponsible dog breeders or puppy farmers often choose dogs based on convenience or appearance, conduct minimal health testing and neglect performance standards. They typically lack expertise in genetics and dog behaviour, invest less in education, and demonstrate limited commitment to dog welfare or supporting the owners of the puppies they breed. This results in elevated health and behavioural issues and a higher incidence of abandoned or surrendered dogs.



Table 1.1 | IGP Breeding Practices vs Irresponsible Dog Breeders

	IGP Breeding	Irresponsible Dog Breeders (Puppy Farmers)
Selection Criteria and Evaluation	<p>Comprehensive evaluation: Selection based on health, temperament, working ability, suitability for breeding. Only dogs passing this criterion are bred.</p> <p>Comprehensive health testing is mandatory to ensure dogs are free from hereditary disease.</p> <p>Temperament standards: Dogs must demonstrate specific skills and stability, adhering to international standards.</p>	<p>Minimal Evaluation: Selection is based on appearance or convenience rather than temperament and health.</p> <p>Minimal Health testing: Only the bare minimum of health testing is performed.</p> <p>No Temperament standards: Breeding decisions are not based on the working or behavioural stability.</p>
Knowledge & Education	<p>Informed practices: extensive knowledge of genetics, dog behaviour and training techniques.</p> <p>Continual Learning: Regular participation in seminars, workshops and events to stay updated on best practices.</p>	<p>Limited Knowledge: Often lack understanding of genetics and proper breeding techniques.</p> <p>Minimal Learning: Rarely engage in educational opportunities relating to breeding and dog care.</p>
Commitment to Dog Welfare	<p>Long term commitment: Lifelong commitment to the dogs they breed, including health guarantees and taking back dogs if required.</p> <p>Ethical standards: Adherence to standards ensuring the welfare of dogs and responsible breeding practices.</p>	<p>Short-term focus: Limited commitment to the welfare of dogs, often selling puppies without considering long-term outcomes.</p> <p>Lack of Ethics: Frequently breed without regard for the dog's welfare or the implications of irresponsible breeding.</p>
Impact on Rescues	<p>Reduced surrenders: Dogs bred by IGP breeders are less likely to end up in rescues due to careful matching of dogs with suitable owners and ongoing support.</p>	<p>Increased surrenders: Puppies are sold to anyone willing to buy, minimal support for puppy owners, leading to increased surrenders to shelters from abandonment.</p>



IGP promotes animal welfare.

IGP contributes to dog welfare from both training and breeding perspectives through several essential practices and principles:

Training Perspective

1. **Structured Training:** IGP is a highly regulated, structured training program that includes tracking, obedience, and sleeve work. This program helps ensure that dogs are well-trained, disciplined, and mentally stimulated, which is crucial for the well-being of the dogs. IGP competitions are governed by strict rules prioritising the dogs' health, welfare and well-being.
2. **Positive Reinforcement:** IGP trainers use positive reinforcement techniques to promote a healthy relationship between dogs and handlers. This approach enhances the dogs' motivation and their enjoyment of the training process.
3. **Mental and Physical Stimulation:** The diverse activities in IGP keep dogs physically fit and mentally engaged, preventing boredom and associated behavioural issues. Regular exercise and mental challenges are vital for a dog's health and happiness.
4. **Balanced Control:** IGP training emphasises control and balance, teaching dogs to switch between high-energy tasks and calm behaviour. This ability to regulate their energy and emotions benefits their overall welfare and adaptability in various environments.

Breeding Perspective

1. **Temperament and Stability:** IGP evaluates and selects for stable, confident temperaments. Dogs that excel in IGP display well-balanced and reliable traits, making them excellent candidates for breeding and ensuring that future generations inherit these positive traits.
2. **Health Screening:** Dogs involved in IGP breeding are comprehensively health screened. Breeders choose dogs based on their physical health, ensuring they minimise hereditary diseases and physical impairments in future generations.
3. **Genetic Diversity:** IGP encourages diverse bloodlines, reducing the risk of inbreeding and promoting genetic diversity. This practice helps maintain the long-term health and vitality breeds that excel in IGP dogsport, operational roles supporting the community and beloved companions.
4. **Performance and Traits:** IGP tracks and evaluates dogs' performance, providing valuable data on traits such as working ability, endurance, and mental stability. This information guides breeders in selecting the best candidates for breeding, contributing to the overall improvement of the breeds competing in the sport.

Long-Term Commitment and Education

1. **Breeder Education:** Breeders involved in IGP gain extensive knowledge about dog behaviour, training, and genetics. This education helps them make informed breeding decisions that prioritise the welfare of the dogs.
2. **Lifetime Support:** Many IGP breeders offer lifetime support to puppy buyers, ensuring ongoing care and guidance for the dog's health and training. This commitment helps prevent dogs from ending up in shelters and ensures they live fulfilling lives.

By promoting these principles, IGP fosters an environment prioritising dogs' welfare, health, and well-being in training and breeding contexts. This comprehensive approach benefits not only the individual dogs involved but also the future of the breeds participating in the sport.



IGP promotes responsible dog ownership.

The sport of IGP promotes responsible dog ownership through setting high breeding standards fostering stable temperaments, comprehensive training, understanding dog behaviour, emphasising health and fitness, encouraging socialisation, and providing community support.

Education and Knowledge

1. **Comprehensive Training:** IGP provides owners with a structured and detailed training program, teaching them how to train and handle their dogs effectively. This knowledge ensures that dogs are well-behaved, obedient, and manageable.
2. **Understanding Dog Behaviour:** IGP helps owners comprehend dog behaviour, interpret body language, and respond appropriately thereby reducing behavioural issues.

Promoting Health and Well-Being

1. **Physical Fitness:** Physical activities in IGP sports keep dogs fit and healthy. Owners learn the importance of regular exercise and mental stimulation for their dogs' overall well-being.
2. **Health Screening:** IGP encourages health screening and certifications for participating dogs. Owners become more aware of the importance of regular veterinary check-ups and maintaining their dogs' health.

Socialisation and Temperament

1. **Balanced Temperament:** IGP training emphasises the development of a balanced temperament. Owners learn how to nurture their dogs' confidence and stability, making them well-adjusted companions and pets.
2. **Socialisation Opportunities:** Participation in IGP events provides dogs ample socialisation opportunities, helping them become more comfortable around people and other dogs.

Community and Support

1. **Community Engagement:** IGP fosters a supportive community of dog enthusiasts. Owners can access a network of experienced trainers and breeders, providing guidance and support throughout their dogs' lives.
2. **Ongoing Education:** The IGP community emphasises ongoing education for dog owners, keeping them informed about best practices in training, health care, and responsible ownership.

Ethical Ownership

1. **Commitment to Dogs:** IGP instils a sense of responsibility and commitment in dog owners. The time, effort, and dedication required for training and competing in IGP reinforce the importance of providing their dogs with a stable, loving home for a lifetime. Dogs trained in IGP are rarely rehomed owing to the owners commitment and strong bonds formed with their owners during training.
2. **Preventing Surrender:** Well-trained and well-behaved dogs are less likely to be surrendered to shelters. By promoting proper training and responsible ownership, IGP helps reduce the number of dogs in rescue situations.



By promoting these practices and values, IGP encourages responsible dog ownership, ensuring dogs receive the care, training, and attention they need to thrive as well-adjusted members of their families and communities.

IGP contributes to a reduction in dog bite statistics.

Irresponsible dog breeding and ownership lead to increased dog bites due to poor socialisation, inadequate training, aggression stemming from dysfunctional genetics and inappropriate selection of dogs for breeding.

In contrast, IGP dogsport prioritises breeding for temperament, stability, and health, resulting in confident and well-balanced dogs that do not risk public safety. IGP training makes dogs safer than untrained dogs because it teaches them rules and context, valuable traits for any dog today.

IGP dog sport is akin to martial arts, highlighting a dog's exceptional trainability and ability to follow commands under high stimulation. It's not about teaching dogs to 'bite'—biting is an instinct for all dogs. The sleeve work in IGP, much like controlled sparring in martial arts, demonstrates control and obedience, not aggression. Aggressive dogs are neither tolerated nor trained in IGP.

This aspect is further reinforced by a German study that found that only 2% of bites involved service or IGP-trained dogs, while pet dogs caused 88% of bites, highlighting the effectiveness of IGP training in preventing bites. The results of this study can be found here >> https://edoc.ub.uni-muenchen.de/4945/1/Mikus_Roman.pdf

IGP is dominated by female handlers.

Labelling IGP as attack training overlooks the sport's complexity, the skills required, and the dedication of its handlers, many of whom are women excelling in this multifaceted discipline. The significant presence of female handlers in Australian IGP Clubs underscores the emphasis on skill, patience, and understanding dog behaviour. It also highlights the sport's accessibility and appeal beyond traditional gender roles associated with attack dog training. Of the 28 Australian IGP Clubs, 75% are comprised of female handlers from a wide age range.

This shift can be attributed to women's increased visibility and success in the sport, fostering a supportive and welcoming community. Women are drawn to the physical and mental challenges of IGP, finding it both rewarding and empowering. Additionally, the breakdown of gender stereotypes in traditionally male-dominated activities has encouraged more women to participate.

The patience, consistency, and attention to detail required for training and handling dogs in IGP are skills where women often excel, further driving their success and representation in the sport.

Australia has been represented at the WUSV World IGP Championships in Europe in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2023. Two women, Glynis and Sanne, represented Australia in 2023 with their dogs, Fynn and Bindee, who were born and trained in Australia.

Positive contributions of IGP Dogsport to the Community.

The comprehensive training and breeding standards of IGP ensure that puppies born from IGP parents inherit desirable genetic traits. These traits are crucial for specialised training for a variety of practical working roles within the community setting puppies with IGP titled heritage apart from their counterparts.

The stable temperaments and trainability of offspring from IGP-titled dogs are also highly valuable to pet owners. However, due to the lack of transparency in the dog breeding landscape in Australia, many potential pet owners are unaware of the importance of asking breeders about these specific qualifications.

Professional Working Capabilities

Breeders can leverage the IGP titles of parents and grandparents to assess the potential suitability of puppies for service and operational roles within our community. The standards and evaluation involved in achieving an IGP title ensure that breeding dogs have demonstrated desirable traits such as stable temperaments, high levels of trainability, and exceptional health. By selecting breeding pairs with proven IGP titles, breeders can predict that the offspring will inherit desirable characteristics with the physical and mental attributes required for specialised training required for Police, Corrections or Military working dog roles.

Assistance Dogs & Therapy Dogs

Dogs with IGP-titled heritage excel in assistance work due to their inherited stable temperaments, high trainability, and robust health. These genetic traits ensure obedience, control, and adaptability, making them especially suited for therapy work or aiding individuals with disabilities in diverse environments.



I am slowly getting the hang of adulthood, working and enjoying the things I love all because of you guys!
If it wasn't for [REDACTED] I wouldn't have the confidence and stability to stay healthy, go forward with my dream job or even have a roof over my head.
It is important that I mention that you guys provided me with safety, nourishment and bonding that I had never felt as a kid growing up. You guys have changed my life and taught me that people can truly love and care about me.
I cannot express how grateful I am and what an impact all the staff have had on my life.
I want to say a huge thank you to Dule and Halen. As a kid who has always felt more of a connection with animals than humans, having Halen in the refuge meant a lot.
I commend the amount of training and energy that both you and Halen endured to have him as a support animal.
When I was having a bad day and I heard Dule was on shift with Halen it would change everything. The cuddles, playing and giving commands distracted my mind.
I truly hope that Halen always stays at the refuge as I am sure other kids will experience the same.
Thank you Halen and thank you Dule!  Emily



Julia Hunt and her dog Halen compete in IGP dogsport. Halen is also a therapy dog for youth. Halen was bred in Western Australia and has a pedigree with multiple IGP titled dogs. Julia's shared her personal thoughts on the Section 4 Amendment here >>
<https://youtu.be/iV43hp6z9HQ?si=SV7JSDcSR7H-fSaw>

Environmental Conservation Dogs

Puppies bred from IGP-titled heritage excel in ecological conservation due to their inherited traits of high trainability, focus, and robust health. Their inherited traits ensure their ability to be trained for wildlife detection, poaching prevention, and environmental monitoring in varied and challenging environments while maintaining reliability and precision in their duties. Some notable mentions of dogs with IGP-titled heritage include:

- Fonzi, Tasmania's environmental conservation dog bred by Garsova German Shepherds has a pedigree of IGP-titled dogs going back multiple generations. (<https://youtu.be/TsP5185Hhdk?si=Ufqtc5bJFPniUBjF>)
- Vondarcor Oxzsa was exported to Japan as a Japanese Bear Detection and Chase canine contributing to bear conservation and the preservation of human life by significantly reducing incidents of human and bear interactions.
- Morekos Dasyurus (Ada) Wildlife Detection Dog has a pedigree of proven scent and tracking skills. Whilst rescue dogs are also used for conservation detection work, science has proven that known genetics sets the foundation for efficacy for detecting and saving endangered wildlife species.



Fonzi - Invasive Weed Detection Dog - Tasmania



Oxasa - Bear Detection and Chase Canine - Japan



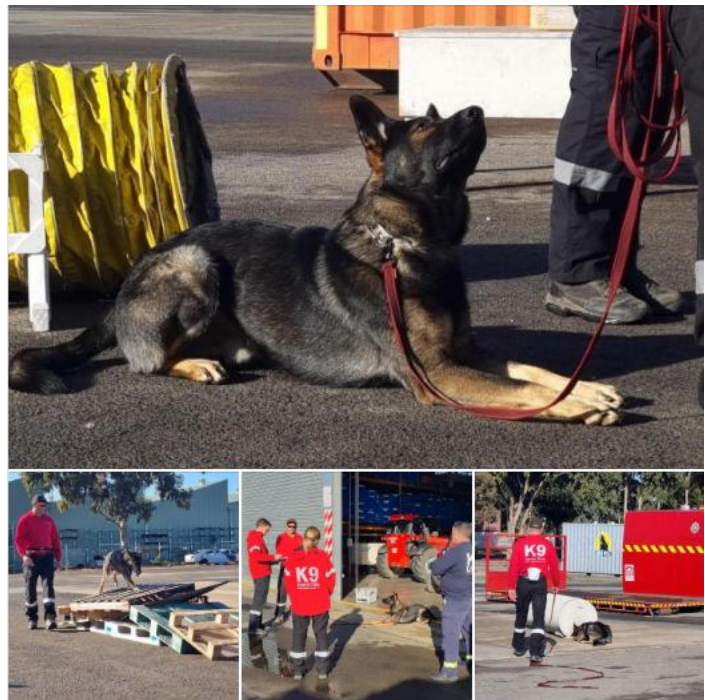
Ada - Wildlife Detection Dog - Queensland

Search and Rescue dogs

IGP-titled heritage ensures dogs possess the genetic capability for focus and stability, which is essential for training them in search and rescue missions, where they must navigate rugged terrains, follow scent trails, and respond promptly to their handler.

Kovacs Shogun (Togo) has recently passed not just one, but two (PC1 & PC2) Assessments in one day with Search & Rescue Canines South Australia Inc.

Togo was bred by Kovacs Kennels in Victoria and has a pedigree of multiple IGP-titled dogs going back generations.



Pet Owners

Knowledgeable pet owners who desire well-behaved and healthy dogs often purchase puppies with IGP-titled heritage. These titles strongly indicate the puppies' lineage, influencing their temperament, trainability, and overall health.

By choosing puppies from IGP-titled parents coupled with knowledgeable breeder support, owners increase the chances of their dogs maturing into well-adjusted, trainable, and balanced adults. This ensures that the dogs will easily integrate into family life, have fewer behavioural issues, and respond well to training.

Strong Community Support.

The PDTA have raised a petition (<https://www.change.org/p/igp-dog-sport-is-not-attack-dog-training>) that has attracted over 5700 signatures from concerned dog owners and advocates of animal welfare in opposition to the Section 4 Amendment.

Feedback regarding the Section 4 Amendment collected from concerned dog owners and animal welfare advocates have been included in Appendix 2.



Negative impacts of classifying IGP-trained dogs as attack dogs in SA.

Classifying IGP-trained dogs unfairly as attack-trained dogs will impose significant responsibilities and challenges that impact their financial situation, daily routines and social interactions.

It has been confirmed with the Dog and Cat Board that this proposed legislation will apply to:

- Any dog with a basic obedience certification obtained at an IGP Club
- Any dog with an IGP attained a tracking title
- Any dog with an IGP attained obedience title
- Any dog with an IGP three-phase title (IGP1, IGP2, IGP3)
- Imported dogs with three-phase IGP sports titles earned overseas as part of their mandatory international breeding assessment.
- Any dog attending an IGP Club once.

Owners of IGP trained dogs already comply with microchipping and dog leash requirements in a public place as part of their commitment to responsible dog ownership practices. Other requirements for keeping an IGP-trained dog classified as an “attack-trained” dog in South Australia will have the following impacts:

1. **Loss of training knowledge:** IGP positive reinforcement and engagement skills contribute to pet dog training. The stigma of “attack dog” training will negate that contribution to the broader pet dog and sport dog communities. Sharonika Williamson of Clear Canine in Brisbane shares how her experience with the sport of IGP has helped her to assist countless dogs and their owners build strong bonds through training. Her story can be found here > <https://youtu.be/1I7ZXxer-Qk?si=uUvPsf3JkEBJ0-s0>
2. **Inability to host trials/shows:** Whilst the proposed legislation provides leniency for sanctioned “events”, interstate competitors to either a dogsports trial or dog show (imported show dogs with IGP titles) will need to declare their dog as “attack-trained” before entering South Australia to align with legislative requirements.
3. **Housing Modifications:** IGP-trained dog owners must invest in secure enclosures or modify their homes to prevent a dog from escaping. This could involve substantial costs for construction or renovation to meet the specific requirements. Some rental properties may not permit these enclosures to be constructed for a dog.
4. **Dog Boarding Implications:** Boarding kennels must also align with legal requirements for enclosures, signage and additional insurance. Not all boarding kennels are compliant to board "attack-trained dogs."
5. **Signage Requirements:** The requirement to display specific signage will have the following implications:
 - a. **Privacy Concerns:** Displaying such signs can draw unwanted attention to the household, potentially compromising the owner's privacy and security
 - b. **Stigmatisation:** Neighbours and visitors may perceive the presence of an attack-trained dog negatively, leading to social stigma and possibly strained community relations.
 - c. **Cost and aesthetics:** The need to produce and display signs to exact specifications involves additional costs and may affect the property's aesthetics.



6. **Insurance Implications:** Home and contents insurance usually covers Public Liability claims for a dog bite incident. However, if a dog was declared an "attack-trained dog", this could void insurance or significantly increase insurance premiums. For Pet Insurance, coverage may not apply for an "attack-trained dog"
7. **Inability to train the dogs in public:** The unwarranted stigma associated with the gross misrepresentation of IGP-trained dogs as "attack trained dogs" will significantly impede the ability of IGP clubs to train and socialise their dogs responsibly.

From a well-being perspective, the social stigmatisation and inability to train in public removes a significant aspect of their lives that provides structure, purpose, and mental engagement. This disruption could lead to increased stress, anxiety, and a decline in overall mental health for both dogs and owners.

For Dog Owners:

- a) **Loss of Community and Support:** IGP provides dog owners with a strong community and support network. Restrictions in training will lead to feelings of isolation and loss of social connections built through the sport.
- b) **Decreased Mental Wellbeing:** Engaging in IGP activities gives many participants a sense of purpose, achievement, and enjoyment. Restrictions could lead to reduced mental wellbeing, increased stress, and potential depression.
- c) **Loss of Structured Activity:** The comprehensive training and competition schedule of IGP offers a routine and focus for dog owners. Without this, there may be a loss of motivation and increased difficulty in maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.

For Dogs:

1. **Lack of Mental Stimulation:** IGP training and competitions provide significant mental stimulation for dogs. Without this outlet, dogs may experience boredom, leading to anxiety, excessive barking and destructive behaviours.
2. **Reduced Physical Exercise:** IGP training keeps dogs in peak condition. Restrictions in training will lead to decreased physical activity, weight gain, health issues, and associated mental stress.
3. **Behavioural Issues:** Without the structured environment of IGP, dogs might develop behavioural problems due to a lack of routine and insufficient outlets for their energy and drive.
4. **Loss of Purpose:** Working dogs, particularly those bred for specific tasks, thrive on having a job. The inability to train frequently will lead to a lack of purpose, causing frustration and mental distress.



Recommendation 1

The PDTA strongly recommend that Section 4 1(b) is removed given that:

1. There is no evidence of an IGP-trained dog being involved in a dog bite incident in South Australia. Overseas studies also reinforce that IGP-trained dogs are significantly less of a bite risk (2%) than un-trained companion dogs (88%).
2. IGP dogsport is not a risk to public safety as proven by
 - a. Previous reviews of the by the South Australian Government in 2010 and 2016,
 - b. The Burns vs Casey City Council dangerous dog decision,
 - c. The Australian Agricultural Minister for Forestry including IGP Dogsport as a recreational dogsport in 2005.
 - d. The Victorian German Shepherd Dog Council and Dogs Victoria successfully obtaining an Order of Council exemption for imported IGP trained dogs from the Victorian Dangerous Dog Legislation.
3. IGP dogsport is an internationally recognised dog regulated by the Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) with Australian teams competing in Europe in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2023.
4. Australian IGP dogsport is dominated by female competitors / trainers (>75%) that underscores the sports complexity, skills required and dedication of the handlers to excel in this multifaceted discipline.
5. IGP dogsport promotes animal welfare practices for the health and wellbeing of competing dogs and breeding dogs.
6. IGP dogsport promotes responsible dog ownership and dog breeding practices.
7. IGP dogsport contributes positively to the community via breeding practices that produce dogs with proven traits desirable for a wide range of roles within the community.
8. The classification will have significant social, financial and mental health consequences on IGP-trained dog owners.
9. The classification will have significant mental, physical and behavioural consequences for IGP-trained dogs.
10. Owing to misrepresentation of IGP dogsport, the classification is in direct conflict with South Australia's commitment to reducing dog bites in the community by supporting responsible dog ownership and dog breeding practices.

The PDTA strongly recommends that the Dog and Cat Management Board engage with the PDTA and the three long-standing IGP Dogsport Associations in Australia (WGSDCA, W DFA, and WMA). This collaboration aims to resolve misconceptions about the sport and work together on developing strategies for responsible dog ownership and ethical breeding practices.



Sections 12 and 17 Composition of the Board

5—Amendment of section 12—Composition of Board

(1) Section 12(1)—delete "9" and substitute:

7

(2) Section 12(1)(a)—delete "4" and substitute:

3

(3) Section 12(1)—delete "4" and substitute:

3

6—Amendment of section 17—Proceedings

Section 17(1)—delete "5" and substitute:

4

The PDTA strongly opposes reducing the Board from 9 to 7 members and lowering the quorum from 5 to 4. We believe the Board is currently biased towards Local Councils and Veterinarians.

Recommendation 2

To ensure a balanced perspective, especially since the Board accredits training programs and tests dog behaviour, the PTDA recommend that at least one position appointed by the Minister be filled by a qualified professional dog trainer with extensive experience in the pet dog industry **and** competition dog sport.



Division 2A – Centralised registration and management system

Division 2A—Centralised registration and management system

20—Board to establish centralised registration and management system

- (1) The Board must establish and maintain a centralised registration and management system for the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The centralised registration and management system must contain the following registers:
 - (a) a register of dogs and cats registered under this Act;
 - (b) a register of dogs and cats that are microchipped;
 - (c) a register of dogs and cats that are desexed;
 - (d) a register of assistance dogs;
 - (e) the register of licensed breeders kept under section 71F;
 - (f) any other register required to be kept by the regulations, and may contain such other registers or information the Board thinks fit.
- (3) A register must, in relation to each entry on the register, include the information required by the regulations and may include any other information the Board thinks fit.
- (4) A register may be kept wholly or partly in an electronic form.

The PDTA supports s(20) in principle. We have concerns about registers being kept partly in electronic form. All registers should be in electronic form to enable efficient and accurate reporting of data.

The PDTA cannot support s(2)(f) owing to non-existent regulations.

Recommendation 3

Given the focus on strategies to reduce dog bites in the community, the PDTA strongly recommends that the Board establish a register of dog bite incidents that includes additional information such as:

1. **Training Background:** Verify the training background of the dog involved in the incident (e.g., no training, puppy school, obedience school, remedial training, dog training clubs) to assess the efficacy of dog training in reducing dog bite incidents.
2. **Dog Source:** Identify where the dog was originally sourced from, such as a registered council breeder, DogsSA, ** MDBA, RPBA, EPAR, AAPDB or ADBC breeder, or rescue organisation to assess the efficacy of breeder / rescue support for the puppies or dogs they sell.

This comprehensive register will help better understand the breeding and training factors contributing to dog bites and inform more effective prevention strategies.

** MDBA – Master Dog Breeders Association, RPBA – Responsible Pet Breeders Association, EPBAR – Ethical Pet Breeders Australian Registry, AAPDB – Australian Association of Pet Dog Breeders, ADBC – Australian Designer Breeders of Companion Pets



Section 26A – Plans of management relating to dogs and cats

12—Substitution of section 26A

Section 26A—delete section 26 and substitute:

26A—Plans of management relating to dogs and cats

(1) Each council must, in accordance with any requirements set out in the regulations and any relevant guidelines issued by the Board, prepare a plan relating to the management of dogs and cats within its area (which may be combined with another plan prepared by the council under this or any other Act).

(2) A council must, on preparing or amending a plan of a management, in a manner and form determined by the Board, notify the Board of that fact.

The PDTA notes that the substitution for 26A does not require Councils to specifically provide plans on the provisions of parks and off-leash areas for dogs as per the previous Act. For this reason, the PDTA **does not support** the substitution for 26A.



Section 45C – Greyhounds

23—Amendment of section 45C—Greyhounds

(1) Section 45C(1)—delete subsection (1) and substitute:

(1) A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a greyhound (not being a racing greyhound) must ensure that, at any time the greyhound is not confined in premises of which that person is the occupier, the greyhound is under the effective control of a person by means of physical restraint.

(1a) A person who owns or is responsible for the control of a racing greyhound must ensure that, at any time the racing greyhound is not confined in premises of which that person is the occupier—

(a) the greyhound has a muzzle securely fixed on its mouth capable of preventing it from biting any person or animal; and

(b) the greyhound is under the effective control of a person by means of physical restraint.

The PDTA **support** the removal of muzzling requirements for pet greyhounds.

The PDTA **oppose s (1)(a)** mandating that racing greyhounds must be muzzled in public places to prevent them from biting another person or animal. This law unfairly singles out greyhounds despite evidence that they are generally gentle and sociable dogs.

Muzzling in public stigmatises the breed and can inhibit their ability to socialise and interact naturally, essential for their well-being. Effective measures for preventing dog bites should focus on responsible ownership, proper training, and education rather than blanket regulations that do not consider individual behaviour.

Recommendation 4

The PDTA **recommend removing s(1)(a)** for compulsory muzzling of racing greyhounds in a public place to promote a fairer, evidence-based approach to dog management and improve public perception and welfare of greyhounds.



Section 60(1) – Power to seize and detain dogs

32—Amendment of section 60—Power to seize and detain dogs

Section 60(1)—after paragraph (f) insert:

- (g) if requested to do so by a member of an emergency service;
- (h) in any other circumstances prescribed by the regulations.

The PDTA **cannot support** s (60)(1)(f) owing to non-existent regulations.

Part 7 Breeders Licences

The PDTA **supports** Part 7 – Breeders Licences in principle.

We do have **concerns and cannot support** the following clauses owing to non-existent regulations pertaining to the breeders' licences:

- Section 68 2(e)
- Section 68 4(c)
- Section 71 3(c)
- Section 71D 1(e)

Section 71E Suspended or cancelled breeders' licences

71E—Dealing with dogs and cats where breeder's licence suspended or cancelled

Subject to this section, any dog or cat owned by the holder of a breeder's licence that is suspended or cancelled is to be dealt with in accordance with the scheme set out in the regulations (which may, without limiting the generality of this subsection, provide that the Board, a council or an authorised person may give directions to as to how such dogs or cats are to be dealt with, and provide for the recovery of any costs associated with dealing with such dogs and cats from the licence holder).

The PDTA cannot support Section 71E owing non-existent regulations. This clause is also ambiguous in interpretation.



Appendix 1 - Burns v Casey CC (1997/20023) [1998]

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IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TRIBUNAL
OF VICTORIA

GENERAL DIVISION

AT MELBOURNE No. 1997/20023

Applicant : Michael John Burns
Respondent : Casey City Council
Before : D A Mattei, Presiding Member
Decision : 17th day of July 1998

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Applicant has applied to review a decision of the Respondent made on 4 March 1997 whereby a black and tan male Rottweiler dog Council Dog Registration No. 23996 was declared a dangerous dog.

The Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 by section 34(1)(d) provides that a Council may declare a dog to be a dangerous dog for any prescribed reason and regulation 6 of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Regulations 1996 provides that for the purposes of section 34(1)(d) of the Act a prescribed reason for which a Council may declare a dog to be a dangerous dog is if, in the course of being trained, the dog is required to attack a person.

The requirements applicable to dogs declared to be dangerous include the implanting of a microchip (s.19(2)), notification of Council of the happening of certain events (s.37(2) and reg 12), keeping the dog indoors or in a

prescribed enclosure (s.38(1)), displaying warning signs (s.39), the wearing of a prescribed collar (s.40) and the muzzling and leashing of the dog when not on the owner's premises or in transit (s.41).

Four witnesses were called on behalf of the Respondent.

Mr D Baker, the Respondent's Superintendent of Local Laws, said that animal control was one of his activities. He said that a dog club of which the Applicant was President was using the Lawson Poole Reserve in Cranbourne for dog training and that on 9 February 1997 he asked the Applicant if he could see a demonstration of the character training aspect of the club's training programme. He said the Applicant agreed and used his male Rottweiler dog.

He described what he saw as follows:

The Applicant hid behind a tent hide and another person Mr Macdonald released the dog which ran towards the hide, confronted the Applicant in the hide and barked at him; the Applicant was wearing a hessian-type protective sleeve on his left arm and holding a rubber stick in his right hand; whilst wearing the sleeve he waved the stick at the dog aggressively and struck the dog on the back with it several times but the dog did not appear distressed by this; when the Applicant made an upward movement of the left arm the dog jumped at the arm and bit the sleeve; the dog took the sleeve from the Applicant and retreated with it but returned on command; when the same

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exercise was repeated without the sleeve the dog did not attempt to bite the Applicant's arm; the process was repeated again and the Applicant confronted the dog and appeared to chase it with the stick and the dog this time backed away; when the process was repeated with the Applicant making an upward movement of the left arm with the sleeve, the dog bit the sleeve and then backed off as the Applicant moved forward.

Mr Macdonald then produced a hessian bag which when rolled up appeared to be similar to the protective sleeve, wrapped it around his arm and enticed the dog to bite it using similar actions to those used in the previous exercises but the dog did not appear interested and made no attempt to bite the covered arm; on a number of occasions during this exercise the dog returned to where the protective sleeve had been hidden and was interested in it as opposed to Mr Macdonald's actions.

On a number of occasions the sleeve was thrown away by the Applicant and Mr Macdonald only to be retrieved by the dog; the dog did not appear to behave aggressively during the demonstration and did not appear to be intimidated by their actions; the dog appeared to be enjoying the activity.

Mr Baker produced five photographs of the aforesaid demonstration showing, as he described them, the subject dog rushing to the hide after having been released, the dog confronting the person in the hide with that person showing perceived aggression towards the dog and the dog remaining at close quarters, the dog lunging at and biting the padded arm sleeve upon a learned



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signal being displayed by the person in the hide, the padded sleeve which was used and a rolled up portion of hessian material alongside that sleeve.

Asked in cross-examination if he regarded what he saw in the stage of training which was demonstrated to him as some form of attack, he replied that he could not state that.

The next witness for the Respondent was Mr J McCrory, Senior Scientific Officer employed by the Victorian State Government with the Bureau of Animal Welfare. He produced a video tape concerning Schutzhund training the third stage or phase of which is the form of dog training presently under consideration, which he said had been given to him at a meeting of a Schutzhund club which he had addressed. He said he had no doubt that a dog in this stage of training is trained to attack and he believed that it is trained to do so on command.

The last two witnesses for the Respondent were Mr L Gibbs and Mr S Spano, both of whom live in a street which backs onto the Lawson Poole Reserve and have observed on several if not numerous occasions the third or "attack" phase of the Schutzhund training being undergone there. In about mid-1997 or earlier they took a video of such training and this was also tendered in evidence.

Cross-examined, Mr Gibbs said he had never seen a Schutzhund dog attack any person, other than the helper or agitator, or any animal and Mr Spano



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said he had never seen any dog at the Reserve attack either a person or a dog.

Four witnesses were called on behalf of the Applicant.

Mr S Austin from New South Wales, National Trainer with the Australian Quarantine Detector Dog Unit, said that he had been engaged in dog training for 15 years. He said that whilst he did not use Schutzhund training himself, a dog which is so trained has its energies released and is made a better dog. He said that dog attacks are prevalent in the community, that the majority of them are by untrained dogs in backyards and that dogs left in backyards get frustrated. He said that the two main reasons why a dog will attack are lack of getting out into the world at an early age and lack of proper training.

He said that Schutzhund is a dog sport consisting of the three disciplines of obedience, tracking and character work and that during the character work the dog is trained to grip and hold the padded sleeve. He expressed the opinion that at no time in Schutzhund does the dog attack a person or is it trained to attack a person but it is taught to grip and play with the padded sleeve, the play being a reward much like most dogs playing with tug toys, balls and frisbees.

He said that when the dog goes for the sleeve it is not showing any hostility or aggression to the helper wearing the sleeve nor trying to injure the helper but



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rather is doing so as a play reward, the reward being the taking of the sleeve and running off with it.

He said that on 4 August 1996 at the request of the Blacktown City Council in New South Wales he visited the Working Rottweiler Club of Australia and that the subject dog was there that day in the field. He observed that at no time during training did any dog show the slightest aggression to any person or other dog. He said that during the character work the dogs were entirely focused on the padded sleeve while people of all ages walked around and he believed that no person on the training field was in any danger.

He said that a Schutzhund dog is a sports dog which is quite different from an attack dog and from a show dog.

The Applicant gave evidence. He said that he is the owner of the subject dog. He said that it has never attacked a person or for that matter any other dog. He said that in the phase of training now under consideration, which he called character assessment, the dog is clearly only interested in the sleeve and that the objective of the striking of the dog is that it is to be calm and cognitive under stress, the rubber stick used being a test of its character and nerve. He said that the objective is not to train the dog to attack people, that the dog is not intending to injure the helper and that its simulated attack is not hostile as evidence by its ears not being back, the nature of its stamp and its bark, its teeth not being bared and its hackles not being up.



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He contrasted the subject training which he said is a sport with the attack training of dogs for security or protection purposes as to which he produced a videotape which was shown to the hearing.

He said that he did not know of any dog which had undergone Shutzhund training ever having attacked a person.

The next witness called was Miss G Hoffmann from Queensland, holder of two degrees in Psychology and currently writing a thesis concerning dog behaviour. She said that in the third phase of Shutzhund training the dog is going for the sleeve and not the person and it is not trying to bite the person. She said that the focus of the dog is on the sleeve as clearly demonstrated by its interest in the sleeve and not the person when the sleeve is thrown away or allowed to drop off the person's arm.

The final witness was Mr D Ford, a member of the Victorian Canine Association Management Committee. He said he had chaired the Australian National Kennel Council's working party which reviewed the sport of Schutzhund over a period of few years. He said that the objective of Schutzhund character training is not to train the dog to attack a person and that the dog is focused on the piece of equipment being the sleeve on the helper when the soundness or otherwise of its temperament is tested. In a test where two people, one of whom is not wearing a sleeve and the other is, split up, the dog always selects the person wearing the sleeve and then only



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the arm with the sleeve. When the sleeve is thrown away the dog will never attack the unsleeved person.

He said that the dog is not in a hostile frame of mind when it goes to grip the sleeve, it has to remain in a stressful situation and the intention is not to injure the helper. He contrasted the training of Police and guard dogs, the prime purpose of which is to bite people, where a full body suit is worn to give complete protection. He said that in his experience there had not been any incident in Schutzhund training where a dog in trying to grip the sleeve had "boiled over" and progressed to otherwise attack a person.

He said that in his occupation of insurance Broker he is an expert in dog insurance and that there is less likelihood of a Schutzhund-trained dog causing a problem than an unschooled dog.

Cross-examined, Mr Ford said that in the character assessment or protection stage of Schutzhund training the dog both grips and holds onto the bite sleeve with force and with the idea or objective being confidence, the firmer the grip the better.

During the course of the hearing I formed a very favourable impression of the knowledge, expertise, honesty and integrity of the witnesses called on both sides.



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On a literal interpretation of regulation 6 I feel constrained to conclude that the subject dog in the course of being trained is required to attack a person.

On the basis of such a conclusion, by reason of the use of the word "may" in the regulation, as to which word see section 45(1) of the Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984, a discretion plainly arises as to whether or not the subject dog should be declared to be a dangerous dog pursuant to that regulation and for the purposes of section 34(1)(d).

Section 98(2)(a) of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994 provides that the owner of the dog may apply to this Tribunal for the review of a decision by the Council to declare a dog to be dangerous and section 25(2) of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1984 provides, inter alia, that for the purpose of reviewing a decision, the Tribunal may exercise all the powers and discretions that are conferred by the relevant enactment on the person who made the decision.

The nature and quality of the attack which the subject dog is required to make in the course of its training is in my opinion very relevant to the issue of whether the discretion to declare the dog to be dangerous should be exercised. I find on the evidence before me that such attack is limited strictly to an attack on the sleeve worn on the arm of the helper or agitator and does not ever or in any way extend to an attack on any other portion of his or her person, with the focus of the dog being on the hessian or padded sleeve. In my view the attack can be best described as sterile or simulated or hollow.



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I find further on the evidence there is no basis whatsoever for the suggestion which was raised at the hearing before me that there is a risk of "bollover" or that there is a "second command" whereby the dog is required to follow the attack on the sleeve by making a further or extended attack on another part or other parts of the person of the helper.

I find on the evidence that, apart from the subject training attacks, the subject dog has never attacked or bitten a person and that such training has not rendered it more likely to do so but rather, if anything, less likely.

I find that the subject training is far removed from the training undergone by guard or security dogs where the entirely different objective is to injure and where the helper wears a full body protective suit.

In closing submissions on behalf of the Respondent it was submitted that in exercising the discretion as to whether the subject dog should be declared to be dangerous it is proper to consider whether there would be any utility in the effects which would flow from making such a declaration, such effects being those set out in the third paragraph of these reasons. In my opinion there would not be any such utility in this case.

For the foregoing reasons my conclusion is that in the exercise of my discretion as to whether or not to do so the subject dog should not be



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declared to be a dangerous dog pursuant to regulation 6 and section 34(1)(d)
of the Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994.

Accordingly, the decision under review should be set aside.





Appendix 2 – Commentary from PDTA Petition

<p>"I am a dog sport enthusiast and these proposed amendments are being made without proper consultation with clubs, individuals or professional organizations who actually understand the sport. There is a massive difference between teaching a dog to 'attack' and a glorified tug game !"</p>	<p>Trish Cavarra</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I would like to urge the South Australian government to engage with Australian IGP organisations to get a better understanding of the sport and its practices. It will be essential to ensure that any decisions are based on facts and not perception and factors in the welfare of both dogs and their owners."</p>	<p>Leanne Toland</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I am signing this petition because I breed and train working line German Shepherds specifically for policing Agencies and sport. These are highly driven dogs that thrive on playing with balls, tugs and anything that is active and fun! Sadly there are very few opportunities to exercise the range of skills my dogs are bred for and to ban the sport of IGP is nothing but short-sighted and detrimental to the breed - and those who love them. This is a WORLD WIDE SPORT that has been in existence since the beginnings of our breed. It would be appreciated if David Parkin would get out of his Chair and do some investigation of his own rather than blindly follow the bleating sheep! Learn about the sport, investigate and meet the people and the dogs! Get an education before making a decision.</p>	<p>Jolanda Naarding</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"An IGP trained dog will excel at the many aspects obedience, tracking and protection. This proposal has been made without full knowledge of what IGP dog training involves and how disciplined the dog is. The sport is enjoyed by thousands of dogs and owners around Australia and the full facts should be known prior to introducing this proposal"</p>	<p>Ian Wilson</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I breed working line German Shepherds and I compete with my dogs in this sport. I also supply dogs to government agencies and others within the sport. My dogs play with kids walk around town and do not attack. IGP is not attack dog training and you would know that if you bothered to ask anyone who owns works and lives a working breed who loves to do for you"</p>	<p>Anneleisa Jones</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"There is no evidence that IGP dogsport contributes to an escalation of dog attacks. In fact, most dog attacks come from dogs that have little to no obedience training outside the home. This is a political move for invested interests, not based on any factual evidence."</p>	<p>Sarah Freeman</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP dogs are well trained and safe dogs"</p>	<p>Kristina Truesdale</p>	<p>Australia</p>



"I compete in IGP and we don't train our dogs to attack people."	Michelle Daniel	Australia
"I train and compete in IGP Dogsport and breed German shepherds. Showcasing what our dogs are trained for is vital to maintaining the stability of character and strength of confirmation in the breed. IGP is not defined solely by the bitework and includes a very high level of obedience, requiring years of dedicated training to achieve any level of competition. Parliamentary decisions should be made on proper consultations with the correctly accredited associations."	Michelle sonego	Australia
"I am a dogsports enthusiast, own & train working line German Shepherd Dogs in ANKC dog sports of tracking & obedience, is an international FCI sport, initially developed as a character & breed assessment test for the suitability of German Shepherd Dogs lines for work & breeding. The dogs involved n IGP which involves obedience, agility, tracking & character work are generally of the most stable temperament & best trained in impulse control around."	Janette Cussond	Australia
"I'm signing as IGP is an amazing Dogsport. These handlers & dogs train at the elite level. These well trained dogs are the least likely to ever bite a ordinary member of the public as they are trained NOT to bite unless told to in competition or at training with experienced decoy handlers. Your more likely to get snapped at or bitten by a untrained dog who maybe reactive. IGP dogs are some of the most mentally stable examples of their chosen breed. They're working ability & the neutrality of these dogs should be fully supported not banned or named as "attack dogs" with huge penalties attached to them."	Caroline Hill-Murray	Australia
"Schutzhund dogs are highly trained and a joy to watch. They are well controlled. These dogs need the mental stimulation and this training provides them with that"	Roslyn Vesey	Australia
"IGP is an international sport, with many breed specific and all breed world championships held each year. IGP is regulated by the FCI. IGP is not attack dog training. It is a sport played worldwide."	Reg Worth	Australia
"The banning of IGP in SA will not reduce nor cease the occurring of dog bites within the community. No statistical evidence has be proffered with these allegations showing that participating in IGP or any dog sport increases the likelihood of bite incidences in the community setting. The fact that it appears proper consultation with the experts in this field of sport has not been conducted thus information provided to government members is possibly biased. Dog sports in all their forms just not IGP specifically allow for the bonding of dog and handler, and an outlet for dogs who are bred for purpose. You will find these dogs live amazing lives within their owners homes have fulfilled lives and live comfortably with children and other members of the extended family."	Rheana Nation	Australia



<p>"As many professional Dog trainer participate in IGP, the dogs they are using are not attack dogs, they are worked in a controlled environment and get to use in dog sport the very instincts they are born with. Without this outlet as working dogs, many get surrendered by pet dog owners because they do not understand the dog they have, and many simply get PTS due to limited opportunities like sport, and IPG is an International federation practiced across the world. Banning a sport on reports and misinformation from agencies who have no knowledge of the sport let alone K9 instincts, is not only detrimental to psychologically healthy dogs, but to the high levels of training these dogs achieve."</p>	<p>Bob Graham</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP. is the exact opposite of attack dog training. Competitors get DISQUALIFIED if a dog bit anyone or even if it showed an inclination to do so. This would be a faulty temperament. This in itself shows that this is not guard I or attack dog training!"</p>	<p>Dane Herbert</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I am signing as a competitor and trainer in the sport of IGP. I am also a University qualified Animal Behaviourist. The move to call participant dogs 'attack dogs' shows a lack of understanding filled with misinformation and disinformation. To my knowledge there has never been an attack from a dog trained in these disciplines. I just want the scaremongering and propaganda to stop and the focus turned to take in the bigger issues of rescue and overbreeding ."</p>	<p>Aline Sinclair</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"There is no evidence a sport dog is more prone to attacking people than a pet dog. In fact though my IGP dog has been attacked by several pet dogs that have run off from their owners. Fact pet dogs are more likely to bite than any trained IGP dog. Fact banning dog sport does not reduce dogs biting people in public. Fact no one has any research or evidence that IGP dogs are trained attack dogs as this is simply not the case. Fact - Government should not make policy based off flawed perceptions of minority groups who no nothing about dog behaviour. The whole purpose of IGP is training your dog to achieve certain criteria. This involves tracking, Obedience and Character work. All three phases require a high level of obedience. Higher than any pet dog could ever achieve. There are way too many arguments for the sport of IGP to be expanded to more dogs and celebrated by all levels of the pet industry. There are no reasons to ban it. It is such a flawed view to call them attack dogs. There is no way on earth that anyone with a trained iGP dog would allow them To attack anyone. Years of training would be destroyed in one go. It would never happen. For potentially an issue where there is a stupid person doing something stupid with a dog there are already rules in place they can be prosecuted under. IGP is being attacked simply because it is organised and self regulated across the world. Don't let IGP fall to ridiculous government policy they should have nothing to do with as your sport will be next."</p>	<p>Warwick Dawes</p>	<p>Australia</p>



"So misguided dog sport is not attack dog training neither is personal protection training the dog bite problem comes from untrained dogs and un responsible owners stop these ludicrous laws and stop listening to the RSPCA"	julie evans	Australia
"Classifying this amazing and SAFE sport as dangerous is ludicrous"	Alicia Nyman	Australia
"IGP does not create dangerous dogs It creates well trained, happy,confident,and very balanced dogs."	Helen Dunnage	Australia
"because it's silly thing to ban. igp is not attack training nor is it dangerous. it's a fun sport that many of us enjoy and anyone who has met our dogs know they are far from dangerous"	Mia Hanning	Australia
"Let the dogs train and compete . Period"	Terrilee Marmo	Australia
"Igp is not protection dog training. It is a separate international dogsport"	Russell James	New Zealand
"IGP is a dog sport that dogs enjoy, where nobody gets hurt (neither human nor dog) and it demonstrates utmost control of the handler over their dog."	Andrea Schmitt	Australia
"Because I own dogs, I compete in sports and I am sick of people who knows nothing about dogs or dog people messing with our hobbies to please other people who know nothing about dogs for votes."	Tabatha Speight	Australia
"If legislation like this continues to get passed through parliament, as it has done both here and internationally, we will lose the ability to have high drive working breeds like our beloved Dutch and Belgian Shepherds. These sport dogs are held to the highest temperament testing even prior to having the ability to step foot on the sporting field. Dog bites happen when the dog is either aggressive or fearful, neither of which would classify to train in IGP. Even if the sport itself doesn't affect you directly, I assure you the backlash from losing it will flow down the lines... 💜 save our high drive working dogs before it becomes impossible to have them in the country all together!"	Emilie Aumann	Australia
"Its defence training not attack if the person is non threatening the dogs do not react . A trained dog is always better than an untrained dog we can recall our dogs and have them under control in seconds , most owners cannot."	Herman Hofman	Australia
"Well trained dogs are not dangerous"	Nicholas Alexander Sismanis	Australia



<p>"If it wasn't for IGP and trainers who honed most of their skills through igp my rescue dog would still be the volatile scared dog she was when I got her rather than the confident and safe dog I can take literally anywhere and who interacts with animals and babies on a regular basis safely because she is fulfilled and confident rather than the nervous wreck who didn't know what to do with all her drive when I got her."</p>	<p>Cameron tyrrell</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"It is definitely not attack training. Dogs trained for this are the safest in the world."</p>	<p>Robyn Rogers</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP is not attack dog training. During character work the dog is moving through a routine with its handler for nothing more than an opportunity to play with a large tug toy (sleeve) which is the dog's sole focus, there is no attempt to move that focus onto the person. The dog is there for the visible tug toy (sleeve). There is no concealed sleeve, there is no bite targeting, there is no use of bite suits."</p>	<p>Scott Rousseau</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Because its an attack on people's liberties, stops an outlet for working dogs and responsible owners. This is a worldwide sport that has thousands upon thousands of supporters. It also helps with breeding healthy dogs with proper thought to genetic predisposition and welfare standards."</p>	<p>Jane King</p>	<p>UK</p>
<p>"I am signing the petition in support of dog sports because I believe in promoting the physical and mental well-being of dogs through structured, competitive activities. IGP dog sports not only enhance the bond between handlers and their dogs but also encourage responsible dog ownership, discipline, and training."</p>	<p>Jess Torrance</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I don't think sport dogs should be classed as attack dogs. They are well trained , well bred , and it's for the good of good training and sport ."</p>	<p>Stephen Barton</p>	<p>New Zealand</p>
<p>"Trained dogs in any sport are not the problem to dog attacks, it usually untrained, unsocialised, backyard house dogs with owners who don't do anything with the dog. The government needs to stop pandering to minorities on things they know nothing about."</p>	<p>Kim Williams</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP dog sport is nit attack dog training."</p>	<p>Ash McCudden</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Aaron G Goldsmith"</p>	<p>Aaron Goldsmith</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Im signing because the proposal is misleading. IGP promotes stable well balanced dogs. To suggest that it is "attack" dog training illustrates a lack of understanding on animal behaviours and clearly shows that the agencies or organisations that are approached by government for opinion on IGP lack the appropriate knowledge to correctly define the sport."</p>	<p>tom stewart</p>	<p>Australia</p>



"I have IGP who off the field are so loving"	Liz Kruger	Australia
"IGP dog sport is actually increasing the awareness of dog owners to the need to train their dogs."	enrique vanderhoeven	Australia
"I believe this is a ridiculous proposal. I do IGP and your dog has to pass a high level of obedience to compete. These dogs are far better trained than your average dog park dogs."	Belinda McCay	Australia
"I have been doing this sport for 16 years & this is not about attack dogs, it's about a dogs character & control. As a dog chiropractor for 35 years plus the dogs that want to be aggressive towards me when handling them for treatment are the untrained or not socialised dogs by owners!"	Garry Pitt	Australia
"Governments need to take their job seriously and engage all party's that have an interest in changes to law. Ie the people participating in club sport, police/military dog units, registered breeders and owners, not just lobby or interested motivated groups. Consider that useful data on dog attacks needs to be collected. My assumption is you'll find that training dogs in self control (which is IGP) is a large mitigation strategy in the prevention of dog attacks."	Tiana Udycz	Australia
"Dogs that train in IGP sport are statistically less likely to attack anyone."	Shelda Bairstow	Australia
"There is no evidence that IGP Dogsport contributes to an escalation of dog attacks. Untrained, Reactive or Abused dogs are much more likely to be of concern. Are we to ban all Martial Arts sports, next? This seems to be a political move not based on any factual evidence!"	Julianne Rilstone	Australia
"My two dogs engage in obedience and agility and scent tracking under IGP. The sport is NOT about attacking or training to attack. EVERY SINGLE DOG, will not progress in the sport unless they pass a "canine good citizen" exam. This rigorous test for their temperament and obedience shows that they are good natured, not fearful, not aggressive, neutral around people, other dogs. This sport supports dogs to learn, to be in control of themselves in public places, to enjoy obedience and builds a beautiful bond with their handler. By inaccurately labelling IGP-trained dogs as "attack trained," the proposed legislation perpetuates harmful stereotypes and unjustly targets responsible dog owners who participate in this sport. Many people who are in the sport gain an in-depth understanding of canine behavior and work tirelessly to assist pet owners with unwanted behaviors that can be resolved with knowledge and understanding of their pet's needs. This is a sport that supports the community by training dogs safely and with modern methods. These dogs become good citizens."	Shelley Stefiuk	Australia
"the IGP dog is highly trained by dedicated handlers that spend hours working on bonding with their dogs."	Tina Mougios	Australia



<p>"Totally ridiculous 😞 These people need to have a big think about this because obviously they have no idea. I would love to see the proof they have found about these sport dogs even looking like attack dogs... I want to see proof.."</p>	<p>Angela Burke</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP is not protection training of dogs. It is an international dogsport regulated by the FCI (the largest canine organisation of the world) . It promotes stable, well balanced and well trained dogs."</p>	<p>Elisabeth Skowronski</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"the South Australian Government is lacking the evidence and conversations with professionals in the field and basing their knowledge on assumptions and biases. As someone who has worked in the industry and know many people who participate in the sport, this sport involves intelligent and responsible dog owners. This sport does not encourage "attack dogs" on the contrary, builds trust and positive bonds between dog and owner. Resulting in second to none obedience and provides stimulation and outlets for working breeds. Their goal to decrease dog bites and attacks by removing this sport, would do quite the opposite and we would lose an activity and safe environment to do so, creating frustrated and unfulfilled dogs. Poor form from the government once again. Lacking the ability to provide forum for professionals within the field to say their piece. Stripping their basic right of freedom of speech to speak on the matter, they they possess the knowledge and practice of. Rather, they would use their power and biases to make decisions based on their own assumption. Do better south Australian government."</p>	<p>Taylor Savage</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I love Dog Sport, you will have a well mannered dog, enjoying a team working together, plenty of exercise, great control of your animal friend."</p>	<p>Jirina Pancer</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Training gives you trust and control of your dog, not what is this law is trying to project"</p>	<p>Allison Gill</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP dogs are NOT trained to attack. They are highly trained and their reward is a toy. I love training my dog in IGP for tracking, obedience and character work. We need more IGP dogs and handlers learning these training skills, not less."</p>	<p>Loukia T</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"This sport is practiced in almost 100 countries, they can't all be wrong."</p>	<p>Annette Slavin</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IPO Dog sports are not Attack training. It's responsible dog training."</p>	<p>Fraser Sharon</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I urge the South Australian government to research the sport of IGP in consultation with expert trainers who conduct it. This sport builds confidence and control with dogs and does not lead to aggression. There is a huge difference in the behaviours trained in sport compared to military/police/personal protection. Dogs are taught to engage in IGP as play with specific patterns of behaviour. There is no evidence the sport leads to dog bites or aggression. Quite the opposite. It crates advanced levels of control in both dog and handler."</p>	<p>Jacqui Zakar</p>	<p>Australia</p>



"IGP is a great sport that teaches dogs self control and obedience. It should not be banned"	Sandra Bryde	Australia
"Uninformed individuals shouldn't be forcing opinions and rules on participants."	Bill Warner	Australia
"Igp has given birth to countless knowledgeable trainers. Without it there would be less professional trainers and that can't be disputed. Stop removing things and start adding education"	Dylan Bennett	Australia
"No al maltrato animal"	Berenice Becerra Torres	Mexico
"IGP only trains suitable, stable dogs for Defense against attack. If no person attacks the dog doesn't."	pam brandis	Australia
"Because I've seen The benefits for myself and my dog!!"	Lachlan Crofts	Australia
"IGP dog sport offers working line breeds a great avenue to develop and express their best obedience, tracking and protection traits. Protection is NOT attack training. Dogs are trained to be highly obedient. Dogs from this sport go on to breed future police and rescue dogs. These working bloodlines need to be preserved. We all applaud when a police dog tracks and subdues a perpetrator of crime. The breeding pool for such dogs needs genetic expansion not contraction. Trainers of IGP dogs are highly skilled and often provide training services for reactive, powerful or difficult dogs, and also train their owners to manage their dogs better."	Kate Rousseaux	Australia
"These are not 'attack' dogs nor is this an 'attack' sport. This labelling shows ignorance by the law enforcers and some education first is required. These dogs are highly trained and have a tremendous amount of impulse control, obedience and respect for what they do. There are more dangerous dogs at your local 'friendly' dog park."	Lillian Edkander	Australia
"This is a great sport for active dogs to keep their mind alive and fulfill their natural instincts. It does not make an attack dog."	jennifer howe	Australia
"IGP gives dog owners more control over their dogs"	Clive Williams	Australia
"Because this will effect dog sports such as IGP which it's not about teaching a dog to bite people willie nillie"	shannon peake	Australia
"These dogs are more highly trained then a 'pet' dog it is the pet dogs that are biting not sport dogs"	Alicia Blythe	Australia
"I don't want to lose this wonderful sport."	kay reynolds	Australia
"Proposed by those who have no idea on the amount of training that goes into these dogs to ensure safety for all"	Jill Houston	Australia



"There is a huge misconception that dog sports that involve "bite work" create aggressive, mean, and uncontrollable dogs. This couldn't be farther from the truth, in fact our dogs are some of the most well behaved dogs on the planet. The amount of training that it required is well beyond the basics. Our dogs have extreme obedience and control. That is achieved through professional training, hard work, and creating an extremely close relationship with your dog. It would be a shame to ban something based on misinformation, misunderstanding of dog sports, and diminishing the team (dog and owner) hard work they have put in to the training. Not to mention the dogs themselves love what they do! Don't ban something based on untrue claims and unfounded accusations."	Jillian Moore	US
"Because that not true"	janet speed	Australia
"Dog training is developed and refined through dog sports not least in sports like igp. Domestic dog bites are not a result of dogs being trained but the exact opposite. We need more opportunities to train, not less. The perpetrators of domestic dog bites are not those associated with dog sports"	Moroni Williams	New Zealand
"Because igp is an accepted all over the world. It's sport dogs doing this are family companions trustworthy with small kids just having fun enjoying what they were bred for. All igp dogs are well behave and totally under control Don,t ruin our breeds and what they were designed for."	margaret reidy	Australia
"As a responsible dog owner I support and internationally recognised dog sport that require a high degree of discipline & control AND that is tightly regulated. Describing this sport as 'attack dog training' is incorrect & inflammatory. Banning the sport would be a loss to responsible dog owners."	Ava Petersen	Australia
"It's just too ridiculous for words"	Sandy O'Neill	Australia
"I stand for responsible dog training and IGP facilitates high levels of obedience and control which in cause will minimise the likelihood of unintentional bites"	Christopher Cortez	Australia
"IGP dogs are the most well trained dogs I have come across. Handlers spend numerous hours training their dogs."	Julie Ulbrich	Australia
"I'm passionate about allowing dogs to compete in sports that the dog is bred to do which causes no harm to handler or dog."	Tania Brown	Australia



<p>"Decisions are being made by ill informed and ignorant people about a dog sport. Most people who are wanting to have this sport banned have most likely never attended one let alone a number of IGP events. The reasoning that dogs are being made aggressive is ridiculous. Maybe you should ask a qualified army or police instructor and get their feedback about why a sport dog does not equal a real protection dog? These dogs are being trained to specifically target a sleeve, like an oversize toy, they would never actually bite a person who does not carry this toy!. Anyone half way informed about this sport would be able to tell you that. But it appears information by organisations who facilitate this sport is not sought. And why not? Rugby League is not being 'banned' because the players attack each other, and often sustain injuries because this is a contact sport. The sport of IGP has been created many many years ago to test dogs and train them for activities that they have been bred for as guardian breeds. It is a test of agility, construction, temperament, that needs to be stable and their ability to be trained. The sport consists of 3 disciplines, tracking, obedience and protection. Any dog able to compete in this sport has to have a very high level of obedience and impulse control, way more that what the majority of pet dogs have who are allowed to run and roam in our neighbourhood and cause havoc. Maybe the state bodies would be better advised in looking at better animal management in suburbs."</p>	<p>Andrea Wohlhuter</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"This sport is not harmful, but beneficially to fulfilling a dogs mental and physical needs. It does not cause any aggression. It's a sport that creates a beautiful bond between handler and dog"</p>	<p>Taylor Annino</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"As a dog instructor I never teach my dog any sort of aggressive behaviour."</p>	<p>Wayne Garner</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"It is just another form of obedience training"</p>	<p>Margaret Moore</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I support this cause"</p>	<p>Wayne Murley</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP is not Dog attacking training the problem in Australia is the amount of dogs wandering streets ..badly bred and cared for.. also lack of owners to ensure that their dogs are secure also people need to be aware all dogs are animals and need training when kept in an environment such as family homes .. sadly beautifully bred dogs pedigree !!! Are wearing the brunt of backyard breeders no health testing and no care in breeding practices."</p>	<p>Lynda burston</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Absolutely ridiculous law."</p>	<p>Marns Topping</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"It is an obedience sport."</p>	<p>Monica Smith</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Removing opportunities for people to train their dogs in a safe and appropriate ways does nothing to prevent untrained dogs biting people."</p>	<p>Nick Muscat</p>	<p>Australia</p>



<p>"The focus on dog bites/fights is in the completely wrong area. Dogs that are involved in dog sports they in include biting are some of the most obedient and well controlled dogs. Try focusing on irresponsible PET dog owners who are doing the wrong thing on a daily basis not only by their dog but by other people's dogs as well!"</p>	<p>Sarah Beddoe</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"All the amazing and intelligent people who train in dog sports are not heathens training their dogs as out of control attack dogs. Quite the opposite. Training in this sport requires so much intelligent consideration, moulding and control, it is quite the opposite."</p>	<p>Wendy Turton</p>	<p>New Zealand</p>
<p>"This proposed legislation amendment is completely irrational."</p>	<p>todd nancarrow</p>	<p>New Zealand</p>
<p>"I'm signing because this proposal will do nothing to reduce dog attacks. All it will do is make it impossible for responsible, dedicated dog owners to participate in a recognised and highly controlled sport that they wish to pursue (IGP). This is discriminatory. This proposal will not reduce dog attacks. Dogs that attack people and/or dogs are invariably dogs that are poorly bred by irresponsible "breeders" with no thought for health and temperament, they have not been properly socialised resulting in fearful and/or frustration and/ or control related aggression, and they have not received any training whatsoever. Combine this with an owner who fails to adequately control the dog (improper containment) and the result is improperly managed dangerous dogs living in the community. Dogs that are receiving formal training in IGP are physically healthy, mentally stimulated and intensively trained and are in no way a threat to the community. I do not participate in IGP but I respect other people's choice to responsibly participate in a regulated sporting activity and I object strongly to this proposal which will not in any way reduce dog attacks in the community."</p>	<p>Kate Lloyd</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Titles should be observed and an internationally acclaimed dog sport and title should be maintained. The dogs and the handlers of these dogs put in more time and energy than others and deserve the accolades and recognition that come with hard work and perseverance. These owners deserve to be heard and listened to and their dogs deserve to be respected and understood."</p>	<p>Emma Pascoe</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"These are some the most well trained dogs around. There is more risk of a poorly trained pet attacking someone."</p>	<p>Megan Chalecki</p>	<p>New Zealand</p>
<p>"I support IGP and believe it's important for working dogs. The dogs are highly trained, try to focus on dogs and owners with no training."</p>	<p>Derek Such</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"It's a knee jerk reaction to ban the sport."</p>	<p>Maria Houben</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Sports that provide dogs with a safe outlet to express their instincts should be encouraged. These animals are held to exceptional standard and far superior and well mannered than most dogs in the community."</p>	<p>Tracy Mynehan</p>	<p>Australia</p>



"IGP dogs are not "attack" dogs. They are highly trained by their handlers to compete in a 3-phase trial - tracking, obedience and protection. Each training phase is dominated by obedience to the handler which leads to an extremely well-grounded dog."	Heather West-Barron	Australia
"These sports have allowed me to have the utmost control over my dog, in all scenarios, as these sports are a true test of a dogs training and relationship with their handler."	Taylor Rooks	US
"IGP teaches working high drive dogs that they have an off switch. Banning this sport would be a huge mistake."	Shiree Palmer	New Zealand
"IGP is a recognised global dog sport which contributes to raising safe and publically responsible canines. This proposed legislation change in SA is discriminatory and founded on misinformation."	Laurie Boutzetis	Australia
"IGP-trained dogs are the complete opposite of a bite risk. The level of training and control required for IGP needs to be seen to be understood, and unfortunately those who want to ban it may not comprehend what it actually is"	Vu Huynh	Australia
"I strongly disagree with this proposed legislation that IGP is attack dog training and is extremely misguided"	Christie Roper	Australia
"This is controlled and professionally run. Dogs are assessed for stability of temperament prior to participation"	First Name *Lyn Gribble	New Zealand
"This is a sport where dogs think it's a fun game to grab the sleeve , it is NOT teaching a dog to attack a human"	Meredith Nelson	Australia
"IGP IS NOT ATTACK DOG TRAINING - DO YOUR RESEARCH INTO THE EXTENSIVE, SAFE & WELCOMING HISTORY OF THIS SPORT"	Sarah Jones	Australia
"The government need to mind their own business if they don't understand what they are talking about."	Nancy Webster	Australia
"I am a responsible dog owner who participates in Dog sports."	Shelly Sutherland	New Zealand
"I don't believe this kind of sport along with the dogs that compete in this highly dissaplined sport are of absolutely no threat to the public or the likes. There has never been a incidence of any dog that competes with in the sport of IGP in Australia attacking a human or animal ever reported..."	Vaughan Oke	Australia
"This is a sport not aggression training."	Pete Crocker	New Zealand
"Where on earth do these bureaucrats get these fanciful notions from. Next thing Karate and Tai Kwon Do will be labelled as Blood sports or Terrorist training camps!!"	Bob Audsley	Australia



"I believe in responsible dog ownership and people who train their dogs are more responsible and less risk to the public than the many ignorant dog owners who don't exercise, train & socialise their dogs - causing animal neglect and problems for society"	Adam Russell	Australia
"As a police canine handler/trainer in the US as well as a dog sport handler/trainer, I can attest that sport dog training is NOT attack dog training. Teaching a dog to bite a jute sleeve does not translate to a dog learning or desiring to bite a human being."	Jan Nielsen	US
"The IGP is NOT attack dog training but high training of obedience for dogs. These dogs are to be admired"	Sue Kruzenga	Australia
"I think it's a higher art of obedience than is commonly known and a beautiful relationship between a dog and man"	Diane Blakeley	New Zealand
"IGP trained dogs are not the "bite" problem. they are in fact more likely to be at the other end of the "bite" problem. IGP trained dogs have very responsible owners. The problem with. "bite" dogs (big or small) is the irresponsible owners who do not train their dogs to be a social member of society."	Lesley Elliott	Australia
"I am against attack dog training"	Cristina Mitz	Australia
"I believe that ppl need to be educated.... And it takes numbers for change."	Carolyn Fraser	Australia
"Its the best sport ever IGP take the best of a dog, tracking,obedience, protection"	Linda Walltin Gavell	Sweden
"The sport of IGP requires an exceptional level of training and an equally exceptional bond between dog and handler and is in no way training a dog to be aggressive or dangerous. For authorities to seek to outlaw this sport displays nothing but ignorance and a knee jerk reaction to appear to address dog bite incidents that are usually the result of a lack of training rather than from highly committed and disciplined teams training for IGP. This narrow minded approach is likely to result in more problems rather than less."	shannon griffin	Australia
"Ich meine Hunde und diesen Sport liebe" English > I love my dogs and this sport	Anne Zierold	Germany
"because IGB Dog Sport is important for dog development and breeding."	Alexander Vukovic	Austria
"Es ein Weltweit anerkannter Sport ist und dieser zur artgerechten Auslastung und Selektion von Gebrauchshunden erhalten bleiben muss!" English > It is a globally recognized sport and must be maintained in order to ensure species-appropriate utilization and selection of working dogs	Oliver Repnik	Austria
"I am an Austrian IGP Trainer"	Sabine PILSEL	Austria
"I am doing this sport and my dog is not dangerous at all."	Carole Furer	Switzerland
"Kogler christoph"	Christoph Kogler	Austria



"those who make the rules should be fully educated and informed of what these dog's are doing. The training is amazing."	Annette Heard	Australia
"IGP doesn't make dogs aggressive"	Ally Smith	US
"es ein toller Sport ist" English - It's a great sport	Karin Laritz	Austria
"IGP dogs are the safest dogs out there. The pet dogs are the ones attacking people and posing bite risks to general public. We have videos to prove."	Brittany Hudson	Canada
"They have the right to continue their sport the dogs enjoy the challenge and work out."	Narelle Bailey	Australia
"ich auch Hundesportlerin bin - aus Solidarität." English > I am also a dog athlete - out of solidarity.	Brigitte Wimmer	Germany
"IGP is supposed to demonstrate excellent training, and an intense bond between a dog and a person. Most importantly it is a test of dogs' mental stability and health. IGP is vital for breeding genetically sound dogs. Up until a hundred years ago, mostly nature dictated as to which dog survived to pass on its genes. As responsible 21st century humans, dog lovers, it is essential that we support such testing as done through the sport of IGP, to ensure the breeding of mentally and structurally sound dogs. IGP is also a chance to demonstrate constantly evolving, better dog training."	Magda Wilde	Canada
"Don't want our sport to be canceled and I want our dogs to be happy"	Nenad Todorov	Serbia
"I believe in responsible dog owner sports. Not politically motivated legislation"	Heather mcgregor	Australia
"I agree that IGP Dog Sport is not attack dog training."	Elisabetta Tommasi	Italy
"I'm a resident of SA. Many years ago I trained a dog to SchH II. This dog had a baby chewing on her paw but would not move until the baby was removed and her paw released and then just ran outside."	Gail van Groen	Australia
"IGP is the equivalent of a dance. It's rehearsed over and over again. There is no aggression on the dogs part. The dog is in prey drive. The Helper in the bite suit is the biggest best toy ever."	jody zankl	US
"This is a sport that teaches dogs control. The dogs that complete are better trained in obedience than any house pet. You have more chance of being bitten by a family pet then a dog trained to do this sport. Before banning a sport look at the stats on pet bites compared to attacks from a competition dogs"	Jacki Mckelvey	Australia
"This is another ridiculous rule with no relevant evidence."	Carlein Method	Australia



"This is a ridiculous thing brought about by animal rights nutters. Spend some time with dogs doing IGP and you will realise that they are dogs who are incredibly well trained and socialised. They are NOT the dogs biting people. Instead of banning a dog sport require people to train and socialise their dogs and not treat them like furry children."	Trish Smith	Australia
"IGP dogsport requires high levels of training for the dogs involved , there is no evidence that dogs with this style or level of training have been responsible for any reported dog bites"	Mark Johnston	Australia
"We need more effectively trained dogs, not less. The decision to proceed with the legislation does not appear to have been based on sound research."	Heather Dearing	Australia
"Ich liebe IGP" English > I love IGP	Klavdija Breznik	Austria
"These dogs are highly trained and highly skilled dogs for a purpose, they are better trained than any pet dogs around who are the issue, not these IGP dogs who train at competition level, it's uneducated people who have the wrong impression on IGP who seem to want this stopped!"	Kim Mason	Australia
"Ich seit mehr als 20 Jahren diesen tollen Sport betreibe, weil es nicht nur mir Spaß macht, sondern auch und vor allem meinen Hunden, und weil ich tierliebend bin und gerne mit meinen Hunden arbeite. Christine Schiestl, Austria". English > I have been doing this great sport for more than 20 years because not only do I enjoy it, but also and above all my dogs, and because I love animals and enjoy working with my dogs.	Christine Schiestl	Austria
"Snowflake furmums should just stay in their own lane."	Tamika Loffler	Australia
"Igp dog sport is not attack dog training"	Maxine Everitt	New Zealand
"It's good practice for dogs."	Kathleen Hampton	UK
"Carla Cornford"	Carla Cornford	Australia
"Because high level dog sports IS NOT at the root of aggressive dog attacks and/or bites. High level sports require a lot of time, money and patience, all things that the good, responsible dog owners are willing to put into their dogs. Untrained and uneducated dog owners, and not enough policing or punishment of off leash dogs is the ultimate cause of dog attacks. Removing a sport that gives MANY dogs genetic fulfilment is not the answer. Genetic fulfillment is ESSENTIAL to a dogs well being, and ultimately leads to less anxious and aggressive dogs."	Veronica Kocsis	Australia
"I care about dogs"	sue appleton	Australia
"It's a breeding suitability test. Dogs should be able to preform the tasks and be good canine citizens in society"	Kaylene Nelson	US



"A recognised sport requiring training, discipline, control. Most dogs would never receive training to this degree."	D Bolger	Australia
"Le sport canin est unportant" English > Dog sport is important.	Yannick Steiner	Switzerland
"Dogs need purpose and this is a sport not an attack operation"	Joshua Tringrove	Australia
"IGP gives working breeds a controlled outlet"	Emma Carey	New Zealand
"People need to shelve their confirmation bias for a minute and seek some true education on anything they want to ban. Only someone who knew nothing about this sport or dog training would take the stance of calling it 'attack training'. It's ridiculous."	E Larratt	Australia
"It is a disgraceful act to once again try and blame the responsible dog owners who devote all their spare time and money for the love of their dogs and sport for an issue that has without question nothing to do with them. In fact, as previously ruled in court, IGP sport dog training helps prevent any issues. I became a Sportdog Decoy, more correctly named Helper, in the early 90's. Wearing a padded sleeve, running and "catching" Rottweiler, Doberman, German Shepherd, Boxer, Giant Schnauzer and Belgian Malinois in Australia, England and Germany. Not once was I bitten by any of these hundreds of dogs. In fact, other than the German police dogs, for obvious reasons of training purposes, they all behave like footy players, wanting to keep playing, wanting a slap on the butt. That is what the sport is about. Separating and selecting the true Working Dog mentality from the weaker and/or unstable/uncontrollable dogs in order to remove them from breeding programs. I have, however, on a number of occasions been bitten by other dogs. The old lady with the Mini Fox Terrier (on a leash), the Blue Heeler off leash in a front yard, Red Cattle dog wandering the street, the multiple mutts that tried to attack my Rottweiler whilst walking or training. I have met and trained/trialled with so many people involved with IGP Dogsport in South Australia, Victoria, NSW, England, Germany and USA. Every single person was dedicated to their pet, their breed and their sport. None, other than the police dog handlers, train to attack. It is about training control and directing natural drives to achieve a team effort and showcasing their beloved Working Dogs. Please listen to the evidence and behave in a just manner"	David Bevins	Australia
"Any changes restricting dog sport should be evidence based something not presented in the proposal to ban the IGP training."	Allan Hansen	Australia
"We have to stop this naive thinking when it comes to dogs. Let's all make an effort to educate our politicians."	Julie Hannaford	Australia



"As an owner of imported IGP dogs I know first hand how stable these dogs are temperament wise. My IGP trained dogs are much more notable, obedient and social with people and other dogs than some that I have imported with no training. My IGP trained dogs are great around my grandchildren which to me is the ultimate test."	Lynda Trotter	Australia
"I compete in IGP and it gives you more control of your dog, not less. It's also not an attack dog sport."	Kate Bezugley	Canada
"It's categorized unfairly, this is a wonderful sport for the dog and their handlers."	Mike Yacak	Canada
"IGP Dog Sport is important part of breed test and building gene pool for service dogs."	Brian Aghajani	US
"I agree"	Leo Jones	New Zealand
"Because I've done igp with different breeds of dogs and if anything they make the dogs safer in the community I would recommend it to anybody that wanted a better bond or learn how to train there dog. The dog learns to listen under a high drive state of mind.."	Gavin Taylor	Australia
"I oppose the legislation amendment that seeks to define IGP Training. We as responsible dog owners with IGP-trained companions and do feel this legislation is unfair and undermines our collective efforts to foster positive human-animal relationships."	Yvonne Schaper	Australia
"I feel that a dog attending IGP training is not an attack dog but a dog that is well trained."	Christina McKenzie	Australia
"IGP dogs are some of the most well trained dogs in our community, owned by skilled handlers and dedicated owners. Dog attacks will not be reduced by this legislation. When has an IGP dog ever been responsible for an attack? More proactive legislation would be preventing puppy mills and irresponsible breeding practices from occurring and promoting basic education on dog behaviour and welfare to prospective dog owners"	Sonia Scott	Australia
"don ban this sport"	JONA MEMERMAN	Israel
"I support IGP sport! We should educate the public better."	Lauren Lee	US
"This is a ridiculous ban on a sport that results in well trained, well exercised dogs and responsible, competent dog owners and trainers. I am an amateur with rescue dogs and we have all learned and improved our confidence and life skills through dog sports including those classed as 'protection' sports."	Sue Cunningham	UK
"K9 dogs and sports dogs are better trained and well socialized than the "postitive only" dogs out there, people who don't truly understand dog behaviour are the ones placing these bans. They should inseed encourage irresponsible owners to achieve the same standards as these professional dog trainers, these bans are not only affecting these trainers, but they are affecting the dog's lives."	Isabel Bustillos	US



"As a dog rescue of 23+ years, I've had to train many troubled dogs. Let me be clear, a trained dog is 100% LESS dangerous than an untrained dog. This is especially true for IGP like trained dogs. that is some of the highest levels of training. Those dogs are if anything SAFER than even a basic obedience trained dog. This bill is clearly not rooted in fact but rather some emotional ideology."	Shawn Updegraff	US
"I'm tired of tyrannical govt. Get out of our lives."	Brenda Hines	US
"The people proposing this law have no understanding of the sport."	Jennifer Ellis	US
"This is a result of people pushing a ban on something they do not understand. Protection dogs and protection sports are not about crazy out of control dogs. Quite the opposite, it's about the highest level of obedience and control."	Susan Swanson	US
"I believe in the freedom for dog owners to have access to all types of training and sport work for the betterment of themselves, their dogs, the communities and the world."	anastacia armstrong	US
"Dogs that are trained like this are well-cared for, do not pose a threat, and most importantly are trained. Dogs that are not trained are way more likely to bite someone and cause problems."	Nannette DiLouie	US
"IGP is a dog breed suitability test, not an " attack sport"	kellie mccaughan	UK
"Government interference in our lives has to stop."	Judith Thomas	Australia
"Don't ban. Educate instead."	Sandra Graff	Sweden
"This will be 1st step other sports will follow such as agility, etc. Protection training is NOT teaching a dog to be aggressive and bite."	Kim Stephenson	Canada
"Any responsible training for animals should be supported not outlawed."	Darrel Adam	Australia
"To protect dog sports which promote responsible dog ownership through the practical display of a high level of control in preparation for and in competitions."	chris Sargent	UK
"This is ridiculous! We need more dog training, not less. I am so fed up with all these dogs that have no manners whatsoever, bad manners, because their owners fail to train them properly. At the moment, my wife needs to re-route her morning run because some lady with a German Shepperd can't handle her dog that goes crazy at everyone it goes past."	Wayne Parkes	Australia
"IGP dog training is a dog sport not a "attack " dog training."	Joanne Groulx	Canada
"Banning dog sports and dog breeds is irresponsible, allowing people to own dogs with no training is irresponsible. So the right thing by all canines and make training mandatory"	Christine Lynch	Australia



"IGP is not in any way contributing to unprovoked bites by untrained dogs. Out of control dogs cannot participate in IGP as a standard of behaviour is required. Ironically IGP is something many Dog owners aspire to be a part of, in turn contributing to people training their dog to a standard where they can participate in an outlet that makes the dogs biological fulfilment possible, increases community safety and education on responsible dog ownership. Not to mention important social connections for those involved. Taking away IGP under the pretence of communication safety does not make any sense. Focus should be on where dogs are actually attacking people and Dogs and those owners having no consequences."	Jasmin Underwood	Australia
"Absolutely disgraceful."	Steve Normandy	US
"Dog sports build fulfilment for many dogs leading to happier dogs"	Gillian Schweizer	Australia
"They are not canine experts"	Christophe Clugston	US
"IGP is not an "attack dog" sport. It should be a more encouraged sport."	sabrina woodward	Australia
"I care about dogs. All dogs bite. Trained dogs are under control. Trained dogs are under control! Trained dogs are under control! The lawmakers are just simply control freaks. People have a right to protect themselves from bad guy... Period ! Since firearm rights have been taken away from the Aussie people, a dog is the next best defense. Thirdly and finally, dog sport is wholesome and it builds teamwork and confidence. What is wrong with any of this? Not one thing! Just say NO to this proposed legislation! Please care and Share far and wide to send the message loud and clear!"	Sheri Rimes	US
"I believe protection dogs and their training are essential in ways completely unknown to those who do not fully understand the nature of this sport and dogs!! We need these trainers and dogs!"	Kimberley Garth	Australia
"I love all dogs and don't believe this to be a good thing at all."	annette gatt	Australia



<p>"Dogs Sports such as Schutzhund, IGP etc. are NOT a risk, but they vital to a dogs well being, health, fitness & mental state & temperament. They balance the dog. Dogs competing in these sports are "highly" trained & "obedient", they follow any command given by their owner - which "cannot" be said about the average pet dog. Sport Dogs are NOT attack dogs - they are dogs playing a game, a giant game of "tug" for which they are "highly" trained - trained to follow precision obedience & precise rules of the game - they "can" be "called off" the tug toy /sleeve (alleged attack) - as it is part of their training, to be "obedient" even, when in the highest state of arousal - again, something which the average, pet dog & owner CANNOT do..... but a sports dog "can" - they are in control, they are under their owners control & they follow commands. They are stable temperment wise & they have learnt to control themselves. If anything a sport dog "is" the safest of all dogs to be around - because of their level of training AND obedience. Temperment checks etc. Any politician involved in these amendments and proposed changes has an obligation - to first go and watch these sports dogs in training, observe their obedience levels, watch the sport "games" they play - learn for yourself how that skill set & level of obedience - would cross over, is applicable AND would be of benefit to the general public, kids, adults, old people, other animals AND in every day situations. Sport Dogs - Are highly trained & obedient dogs. Sport Dogs - Are NOT attack dogs. Sport Dogs - Are NOT a risk It is the untrained, unsocialised pet dogs, that are a risk to society."</p>	<p>Geraldine Mullan Mullan</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"its ridiculous over reach"</p>	<p>L Vale</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Dogs are bred for jobs and enjoy being training and working. IGP/IPO trained dogs are one of the most well trained groups of dogs and their obedience and behaviour is outstanding. They enjoy participating in a sport. Do not let our dogs become depressed by what uneducated people think dogs should be doing!"</p>	<p>Darla Browne</p>	<p>Canada</p>
<p>"I love dogs and dog sports and fully encourage them!"</p>	<p>Javier Hernandez</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"Untrained dogs show up in bite statistics. IGP dogs are higly trained & bred for stable temperament. Thier first title (BH) is a test of temperament. I challenge you to look at bite statistics & tell me what you find."</p>	<p>Marion Phillips</p>	<p>Canada</p>
<p>"Protection training is not attack training"</p>	<p>Debbie Klement</p>	<p>Canada</p>
<p>"Bans of this type are always, without exception, proposed by people who don't understand the issue. Protection sports are not dangerous, nor are they harmful to dog or human. Do not ban them."</p>	<p>Christopher Dillard</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"It means other methods will be used that are likely more harsh and less effective."</p>	<p>ahmia scott</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"It's wonderful to see working dogs work!"</p>	<p>Theresa Langelier</p>	<p>US</p>



"I dislike cruelty to any animal."	Colleen McLennan	Australia
"It's a controlled sport that enriches the dogs life and purpose and function, the very essence of owning a dog"	David Haywood	Australia
"It's intrusive to ban sporting events with one's own family members our dogs!"	Mike Rogers	US
"Protection is not attacking!"	Beth Douglas	US
"Highly trained dogs are healthier, happier, more stable. It is not IGP sport causing dog attacks. It's the dogs with people who baby and spoil their animals. As more of these bans progress, the rights of responsible dog owners are stripped and the health and well being of our dogs. Its only going to get worse if we don't fight."	Jennifer Bromm	Canada
"Dog sports are just that, sports. Just like sports for children or adults, it is very fulfilling for the dogs. Eliminating dog sports is nonsensical to anyone who actually loves dogs. If you love dogs, why would you take away what a dog is bred to do and loves to do?"	Shannon Frink	US
"There's always a better way instead of resorting to banning."	Nicholas Castro	Australia
"Ignorance is no reason to enable people to ban something they just disagree with , despite their lack of knowledge."	Danielle Dixon	Australia
"Those who actively work and train their dogs under professional guidance and to fulfil and enrich their working dogs lives should not be punished."	Lydia Scarpari	Australia
"Humans are still savages of time and it's time to cull the human race with the exception of a few good people like you all with a Golden Nuclear Heart. Dog Bless you all. jan.anthonisz@gmail.com"	Jan Anthonisz	Australia
"Igp trained dogs are NOT attack dogs. They are less of a threat to the public than the small yappy dog at your local coffee shop that we all know. I saw a small friendly looking dog like that bite a child a few days ago. I have never seen or heard of an incident where a dog titled in igp has attacked someone outside of a training or real world protection scenario. They are the safest dogs there are, calling them attack dogs is wrong and an insult to the trainer who put in 10s (if not 100s) of hours in training to get there."	Malachy Pedder	Australia
"All Government is the enemy of the people"	Martin Wilk	Australia
"The stupid has to stop"	Damien Martin	Australia
"I have participated in dog sport for decades and have found well trained dogs to be the safest and most content. Many in IGP are handled by youth, or live as a family member in the home."	Suzanne Calkins	US



<p>"IGP training and trialing produces extremely well-trained dogs, who work through their handler- with very strong impulse control and obedience. They don't just randomly bite. IGP is a very specific choreographed routine They bite on command as part of that routine- and only target the obvious equipment - a padded sleeve. The bite is on cue, and can be aborted, in which case that dog will go right back into a tight obedience routine. THIS IS A GAME! The dogs LOVE IT! Off the field they are reliable members of the family and community. Why not address ALL the dogs without training, on harnesses or haltis, and fully extended flexi-leads, barking, lunging and creating havoc in our communities while their unaware, uneducated, oblivious owners go about their business? These poor, anxiety driven dogs need advocacy! Educate yourself- go to an IGP trial and see the incredible partnerships between each dog and handler. The teamwork and deep understanding, the love and respect , even if points are lost. These owners, handlers and dogs are setting the Highest Standard of Dog Respect and Advocacy!"</p>	<p>Sonja Heritage</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"Regulating dog sports, breeds, and dog tools in the ways that governments around the world are/are attempting to do is nothing but blatantly harmful to dogs and people alike."</p>	<p>Delaney Taylor</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"It is not right"</p>	<p>Montse Torrens Blanch</p>	<p>Spain</p>
<p>"Absolutely ridiculous majority of these dogs are highly trained in obedience everything is on command."</p>	<p>emma orourke</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I'm signing because the most dangerous dogs are dogs that are not trained, do not follow commands and have not seen a professional. Professional trainers keep safety as a paramount. Every dog can be an attack dog in the right set of circumstances. A guy ran up to me (single female) in the dark out of nowhere late at night while I was taking my beagle to the bathroom by a reserve with no one around. I froze unfortunately but my dog did not - he immediately changed his body language, got between me and the guy and did a bark that was a clear warning if you are a threat to my owner I'm a threat to you. Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) if the guy continued to approach I would have let Bowie physically go at him but Bowie is not trained and he does not have a "stop" command in that situation. A single bite may have been enough. Many women are SICK OF BEING AFRAID AND WARY TO WALK OUR DOGS ALONE AT NIGHT! I'm not the only one. Violence against women is rampant and it seems like the only ones who want to protect us are our dogs. We should have easy access to train them to protect us, deter people who might want to harm us but remain under our control so no one is seriously hurt. Trained dogs aren't the problem. Untrained dogs are."</p>	<p>Emma Followill</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I'm tired of the lies and misconceptions being spread by people about areas of dog training that they have no experience or understanding of. Dog sport is not bite work."</p>	<p>KELLY AUSTIN</p>	<p>US</p>



"Dog training saved me from getting rid of my dog after she became reactive to others after being attacked by offleash dog. I learnt so much"	Brenda McKinnon	Australia
"This sport provides so many dogs with genetic fulfilment, builds the bond between handler and dog whilst providing a high level of control and obedience. It is not training the dog to attack humans or another animal it is purely sport ."	Paula Garnham	Australia
"Helping a dog to self regulate is being kind not cruel . Letting a dog be untrained & without control is cruel . This legislation will cause chaos."	belle martin	Australia
"These sports are not cruelty. They are a representation of the excellent relationships these athletes build with their dogs. The training is phenomenal and the dogs are thriving."	Carolin Ghaznavi	Canada
"I know that this requires a dog to be well trained and obedient which is the opposite of dangerous"	Lauren Collins	Australia
"I disagree with the proposed change in legislation. Trained dogs are not attack dogs."	Nicole Moore	Australia
"A trainer and breeder of decades, the argument used is utter bs. Its never a bad idea to have people trained in correct methods, it actually weeds out the would-be's and trouble makers... the sport sets a standard on many levels (and is less political imo than other dog sports). Protect it!"	Katy Carolan	Australia
"I care about dogs and proper dog training. I do not believe high level obedience and security dog training should be phased out. It's important and necessary."	Sabine Shatraw	US
"The bill is misinformed about the nature of IGP Sport and would set a bad precedent. Sport dog owners are extremely knowledgeable dog owners and their dogs are safer to be around than the vast majority of pet dogs due to their training."	Carla Lafleur	US
"Training a dog is the best way to stop unprovoked bites. I have worked with Security dogs, corrections dogs and sports dogs and I have never seen them carry out an unprovoked bite. It's the untrained dogs and the pet only dogs that bite. Bite Sport dogs are better trained and behaved then most other trained dogs let alone pets or camp dogs.....what's the real goal here."	Guy Sadler	Australia
"We need dogs trained"	Deborah Lee	Australia
"This is not the way to help dogs or people by banning something they are afraid of because they don't understand. This is one step in the direction of not only removing an outlet that could drastically and positively help many dogs and their humans, but also condemning more dogs to death."	Noelle Farr	US
"The idea that it's attack dog training is absolutely ludicrous."	Eric Bradley	US
"Trained dogs are the most obedient dogs. It's untrained dogs that aren't controlled One should worry about."	Kristy Banfield	Australia



"troisième génération d'entrainement de chiens pour le sport ,j'affirme que les activités canines sont bénéfiques pour les chiens comme pour les humains" English The third generation of training for dogs for sport ensures that the activities of dogs are beneficial for dogs together for humans	Paul dethyse	Canada
"I believe this is a sport"	Sky Scott	Australia
"I care deeply about my right to train and work with my dogs."	Jill Berra	Australia
"This is not sport isn't designed to create dog as attacking dogs and to ever believe that this sport would do this is ridiculous."	leanne plane	Australia
"I know IGP is training for control and is not attack training. The ultimate control. Igp dogs don't cause bite issues. Untrained dogs do."	Cathie Pierson	Canada
"Just because a dog is attending a class does not make them a dog to be afraid of"	Velma Barnard	US
"IGP reduces bite risk to the point that many trainers recommend the sport as a way to build confidence and proper risk assessment in the type of nervy dog that is most likely to bite out of fear. Obedience and tracking alone can help boost confidence significantly, but the type of partnership and self-assuredness that is inherent in the bite work portion allows the dog to learn circumstances in which it is appropriate to bite (during training, on the trial field) and, most importantly, to default to the handler making the decision of when to bite and when to let go. Learning to release immediately on command is one of the first things taught- with toys before a dog even sees a sleeve or other gear on a person- and lack of training an out is a big reason bites from untrained dogs are so damaging. While I would like to stress that sport trained dogs are extremely unlikely to bite anyone, in the hypothetical scenario where this would actually be relevant, the bite would cause less damage. Many untrained dogs regrip or bite multiple times, causing more damage than the single bite and hold required of a sport dog. Much of the damage also comes from attempting to remove the dog, by yanking them off while they're still gripping the victim or by whipping around to bite the person pulling them off. Dogs trained for sport are by default safer than dogs with no bite work training."	Phoenix Arcangelus	US
"Anything with attack mentioned will do more harm to the correct training methods being used by responsible handlers/trainers. When dogs are trained correctly they are incredibly safe."	Janine Morffew	Australia
"I believe this training is not attack dog training"	Cheryl Hill	Australia
"This is the stupidest thing I've ever heard of"	Sam King	Australia
"IGP sports participants holds higher regards for human and animal safety and wellbeing than ordinary pet owners do."	Emma Douglas	Australia
"IGP is simply a higher level of obedience training for dogs! Only the most level headed and temperamentally sound dogs do very well with this obedience sport!"	Shaina Lafleur	US



"The responsible and passionate dog owners who sacrifice thousands of hours to train and compete in dog sports are not who legislation should be targeting. Anyone who thinks that a highly trained sport dog is more dangerous than an untrained and poorly managed average pet dog has clearly not spent any time learning about IGP or any of the sport communities they will go after next."	Frances Hurley	US
"IGP and dog sports like it are amazing and should be promoted not banned. Every igp dog I've ever met has been handled impeccably"	Brooke Morgan-Burke	Australia
"because clearly the legislators HAVE NOT thought this through. Do better!"	Bradley Willmott	Australia
"I participate in protection training"	Theresa Craig	US
"I compete in dog sports and these dogs are far from "attack dogs" they wouldn't be able to compete if they were unstable or a bite risk."	courtney gaspar	US
"Dog training benefits the dogs and their human guardians."	Louis Spirito	US
"This training does not make dogs more likely to attack anyone-- quite the opposite is the case. A well-trained dog is far less likely to cause harm to anyone."	barry richardson	New Zealand
"I believe dog training is the solution not the problem"	Rhonda Bluehill	Australia
"I completely agree with this statement. Anyone who has true knowledge of dogtraining knows this."	Janneke Jacobs	Australia
"I care deeply about this issue."	susan TAYLOR	US
"I believe that igp sports are a testament to dog training and the hard work handlers put in"	Shelby Huckstep	Australia
"Because it is absolutely farcical that this is even being entertained. If someone spent 10 minutes doing some diligent research, they would realise that dogs in IGP are quite the opposite."	Blaine Gilham	Australia
"These dogs are very highly trained, far better trained than most dogs. They present no danger at all to the community and in fact, their skills and the skills of the handlers who train them are to be admired. There should no ban or restriction placed on this sport."	Katrine Kelly	Australia
"My dog is a working GSD and he's a house potato full of love because he's able to work during the day. Please don't do this to these beautiful animals- they are not just "attack dogs" in the sport"	Patrick Watts	US
"I love this dog sport...make balance between dogs and humans. And when dogs are balanced means no problem for society!"	Barbara Ritecz	Hungary



<p>"IGP or Schutzhund is a world renowned sport with every country training and competing for decades while in Australia ,with its dog ignorant politicians and public, are forced to fight for the sport and the right to compete locally and internationally. This fight , petitions have been going on for the last 5 decades that I know of and probably longer. It's ridiculous! The sport is just that , A SPORT , a highly skilled sport with the purpose of maintaining correct temperaments, character and working abilities in working/sport dogs . It's not dangerous . What is dangerous is not having or allowing the sport and allowing breeders to breed animals without proof their animals are correct for breeding. Schutzhund is the perfect sport to prove reliability for breeding . I just wish politicians would FINALLY get to understand this !!"</p>	<p>Erica Hogan</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"this is important"</p>	<p>Catherine Holman</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Less government over reach is a good thing"</p>	<p>Sam Lowe</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"IGP showcases stability and discipline in working breeds, and is a breed-appropriate outlet for dogs bred to perform guarding or military/police work. Taking away a sport that allows for healthy, playful practice in the form of a "game" for the dogs leads to pent-up drive and frustration which is detrimental to the dogs' mental health. This bill is dangerous to the future of responsibly owned working dogs."</p>	<p>Tai Evans</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"Dogsports need to stay alive. If we want breeds to be bred with their proper standards we need to provide sports that support them."</p>	<p>Lisa Boucher</p>	<p>Canada</p>
<p>"It IS training and it's specialized. I would trust a dog that's been trained and tested in this than a dog that hasn't. Imagine the work involved to have this discipline and trust in your dog. Go after backyard breeders or dog fighting rings instead."</p>	<p>Linda Morris</p>	<p>Canada</p>
<p>"" Any " dog training that teaches any dog to not only respect & obey their owner's directions, but also respect other people they come into contact with on a daily basis, must never be classed as { attack dog training } period!! Especially when said intensive dog training has been previously tested in no less than " two separate State Courts of Law " & in both Court Cases, have been determined as most effective & immensely beneficial."</p>	<p>Craig Beasy</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"Training dogs in Sport focuses on the relationship between dog and handler, impulse control and obedience. The training is completely different than training for Real life scenarios for law enforcement."</p>	<p>Yvonne Lunceford</p>	<p>US</p>
<p>"Everything governments get involved in almost always makes things worse."</p>	<p>Lindsay Johnston</p>	<p>Australia</p>
<p>"I love dog sports."</p>	<p>Nicole Crameri</p>	<p>Australia</p>



"I believe dogs should be trained to respect other dogs and their owners, not attack them. Training dogs to attack is extremely dangerous and having dangerous dogs roaming the streets is unacceptable in any circumstance."	Ella Juric	Australia
"The sport of IGP teaches a dog control and obedience above all else. Our dogs are taught to bite a toy or a sleeve, not a person. The level of obedience required for a dog to succeed in IGP vastly surpasses the average dog. While dog bites to humans is absolutely something that deserves to be addressed, this section of the legislation misses the mark entirely. A pet dog that has received no training is statistically far more likely to attack a person than a dog trained in IGP"	Heather Doyle	Canada
"Structure in sport teaches impulse control to dogs who could be dangerous with no training and creates a safe community of handlers"	Jordon Jiggins	Australia
"These dogs are trained to a level which makes them less likely to be a threat to people"	Mike Kingston	Australia
"IGP is a great sport and requires excellent dog training and handler knowledge to participate in. It is an excellent activity for so many of our amazing high drive dog breeds and their owners. There is NO evidence that it has any adverse outcomes in the canine community and therefore I cannot see why it would be banned."	alice shaw	Australia
"I believe IGP dogsport is not attack training but it is a sport developed to help and breed dogs with balance temperament and not promoting unnecessary aggressive dogs causing damage to the society."	Sachin Rawte	India
"It's a justifiable cause."	Murray Yee	Australia
"This is a ridiculous law. This is a sport enjoyed by dog owners and dogs. It's about working together, having a purpose and keeping fit."	Leslee Zaja	Australia
"This misguided proposal will do nothing to stop dog bites or dog attacks. Those will stop when we train humans / pet owners better. The proposal is ludicrous, what sport is next??? IGP is a highly regulated sport done by professionals and those with training, skill and knowledge."	Christine Keen	Australia
"IPG encourages people to train dogs to a high level and to have high levels of control over a dog. A highly trained dog is not a danger. The danger is from untrained, unsocialised dogs in the habit of ignorant or uninformed pet owners. Appropriate consultation with experienced dog trainers is needed before proceeding further. If you don't get advice from people who actually know what they are talking about, not bleeding hearts, then you can make the situation worse"	Michelle Parker	Australia
"The public have no idea and don't try to understand the time, effort and mechanics of dog sports. They ban things without learning anything about them. Dogs are dogs, they are bred for a job, they need work to do, so they don't self destruct and chew, dig, destroy or escape, this is an excellent, structured and enjoyable sport for both dog and handler."	Lynda Buckton	Australia



"Dogs are the way we raise them. "Attack trained" dogs are very obedient - they have to be in order to control the situation."	Lize von Perbandt	Germany
"we own an IGP trained dog and she is the embodiment of obedience trained, she is NOT "attack trained" in any way, shape or form. Someone train the silly legislators, please!"	Gina Wood	Singapore
"I believe banning protection dog sport is a dangerous step in the wrong direction. Training dogs in protection doesn't make them more aggressive it only teaches them to do a valuable job. As with any other sport the dog is trained to use the skills they learn only at the appropriate times and gives them an outlet to help produce more temperamentally stable dogs."	Judith Poole	US
"Surely a well trained dog is less likely to be a problem"	Debbie Viney	Australia
"I lived through well-meaning governments wanting to ban "dangerous breed". Fortunately, our governments chose to listen to experts and science and refused to pass such legislation. The government in South Australia needs to inform itself, so that an educated decision can be made."	Anna Maria Caranci	Canada
"These dogs are selected for this training based on a cooperative temperament. These are highly skilled dogs. There are far greater risks from untrained dogs."	Sheollagh Fitzgerald	Canada
"I support the sport and what is being said of the sport is not what it actually is. We are better off with having the sport that helps our dogs physically and mentally throughout their lives. Please do not give into removing it from our dog's lives. People who are against the sport are people who do not train in the sport and do not understand it and assume it is a negative activity for the dogs when it is quite the opposite. This sport enriches their lives and ours. It creates a bond and give the dogs a structure. Untrained dogs is what the actual problem is and for the bad breedings happening around the globe."	Jose Conde	US
"I compete in dog sports"	C Richardson	US
"It further punishes responsible dog owners and trainers, by forcing them to inhibit the opportunity to enhance their dogs ability to develop control and mindfulness. I would much sooner be in the company of a trained dog than a misguided out of control one."	Jodi Fraser	Australia
"Due process has not been adhered to by the south Australian government. Extensive consultation with affected groups needs to take place before decisions are reached to change legislation. Changing this legislation will not reduce dog attacks on the public."	Amanda Lambert	Australia