



Positions and Opinions For Medically Unnecessary Veterinary Surgeries

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Organization	Procedures Addressed	Source of Authority, Position
(CKC) Canadian Kennel Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear cropping dogs 	Will not unilaterally legislate changes to breed standards. Ear cropping must be done under general anesthetic.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treats the issue of tail docking and dewclaw removal as separate from ear cropping 	Tail docking and removal of dewclaws in young puppies is similar to practices in livestock industry.
Canadian Federation of Humane Societies	Opposes surgical alterations of companion animals for cosmetic reasons; encourages breed associations and the Canadian Kennel Club to change breed standards so that cosmetic procedures are not required.	
(CVMA) Canadian Veterinary Medical Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking in equine, bovine, or canine • Tail nicking/setting in the equine • Ear cropping in canine • Onychectomy is species other than the domestic cat 	Opposes surgical alteration of any animal for purely cosmetic purposes. Recommends breed associations change their breed standards so that cosmetic procedures are not required
(HSUS) Humane Society of the United States	The HSUS opposes cosmetic and other forms of surgery on animals when done solely for the convenience or pleasure of the owner and without appropriate benefit to the animal.	
(HSVMA) Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association	HSVMA opposes surgical procedures performed on a companion animal solely for the cosmetic preference or convenience of the caregiver. Examples of such procedures include ear cropping and tail docking in dogs. Exceptions to this position would be the rare instances in which such surgeries are performed for therapeutic purposes. HSVMA urges canine breed clubs to eliminate ear cropping and tail docking from dog breed standards. <i>Approved by the HSVMA Board of Directors, November 2010</i>	
(PETA) People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals	In response to the tail-docking (amputation) requirements for certain breeds in the Westminster Kennel Club's (WKC) internationally promoted annual dog show, PETA has filed a complaint with New York officials against the club, alleging criminal violations of the state's anti-cruelty law, which prohibits unjustified mutilations of animals.	
(ALF) Animal Liberation Front	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear cropping 	An unnecessary, painful cosmetic surgery performed on dogs in which a large part of the earflap is cut off to make the ear stand erect. Illegal in the United Kingdom and other countries but still legal and common in the United States.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking 	Among dogs, the surgical amputation of the tail, usually for cosmetic reasons. * Is manipulating companion animals for our needs in the best interests of the nonhuman animal as well? Tail docking would thus be a practice to condemn in this regard.
(WSAVA) World Small Animal Veterinary Association	<p>This is the text that was unanimously endorsed by the WSAVA Assembly at its meeting in August 2001.</p> <p>The World Small Animal Veterinary Association's position on tail docking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The WSAVA considers amputation of dogs' tails to be an unnecessary surgical procedure and contrary to the welfare of the dog. · The WSAVA recommends that all canine organisations phase out any recommendations for tail amputation (docking) from their breed standards. · The WSAVA recommends that the docking of dogs' tails be made illegal except for professionally diagnosed therapeutic reasons, and only then by suitably qualified persons, such as registered veterinarians, under conditions of anaesthesia that minimise pain and stress. · Do not buy puppies without tails. · Insist that the breeder from whom you buy your dog does not dock tails. · Demand that your kennel club or canine organisation stops advocating docking in any form and starts promoting the showing of intact dog. Public demand will quickly make complete natural-tailed dogs popular. · Most importantly, please take action to make tail docking illegal for anything but medically justified reasons. Contact your local Member of Parliament or responsible Government official and ask him/her to support a ban of dog tail amputation and to modify the Animal Welfare legislation in your country to make the practice illegal. You will find more material and a model letter from WSAVA's web page www.wsava.org. Politically, each letter from a concerned citizen is counted as representing 100 votes. So every letter counts! The World Small Animal Veterinary Association is an International Veterinary organisation with a commitment to the welfare of animals. The WSAVA's 55,000 members are drawn from 57 companion animal veterinary associations in 50 countries of the world. 	
SPCA of Nova Scotia	http://www.spcans.ca/advocacy/position-statements.html Also look here: The Council of the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association has amended the Code of Ethics after consultation with the Membership, both directly and through a survey, along with consideration of public input, to include the following Section relating to Cosmetic Surgery. http://www.spcans.ca/documents/Cosmetic%20Surgery%20Notification.pdf	
Ottawa Humane Society	The Ottawa Humane Society is opposed to the mutilation of animals for cosmetic purposes and supports the abolition of such practices. It is also opposed to any other unnecessary surgical procedure that is painful, distressful or restrictive of the function of the body part involved. The OHS will continue to discourage animal owners from sanctioning and adopting such practices through public education and working with like-minded stakeholders, e.g. Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPACA), Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS). The OHS will actively participate in efforts to eliminate the cause(s) of these practices, particularly as regards to amending Canadian Kennel Club regulations requiring animals to undergo such procedures in order to conform to breed standards for showing.	