



Positions and Opinions For Medically Unnecessary Veterinary Surgeries

Last Updated:
November 2013

Jurisdiction, Organization	Procedures Addressed	Source of Authority, Position
Newfoundland and Labrador College of Veterinarians [Regulator]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear cropping dogs 	Act: Illegal under Animal Protection Act since 1978.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear cropping and tail docking in dogs. 	By-law: prohibits both. (2010)
Nova Scotia NSVMA [Regulator and Association]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking in the equine, bovine, canine • Tail docks in newborn puppies • Dewclaw removal in newborn puppies • Tail alteration (nicking/setting) in equine • Ear cropping • Onychectomy (declaw) in species other than the domestic cat 	Code of Ethics: No member of NSVMA shall perform cosmetic surgery on an animal for the purpose of having the animal's appearance conform to a breed standard or tradition. Cosmetic surgery is defined as non-therapeutic surgical procedures which alter the appearance of an animal for purely cosmetic purposes
Prince Edward Island [Regulator and Association]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking in the canine, equine, and bovine species • Tail nicking and setting in the equine species • Ear cropping in the canine species 	By-Law: Considered unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian to perform cosmetic surgery on any animal. Cosmetic surgery is defined as non-therapeutic surgical procedures (i.e. of no medical benefit) which are performed purely to alter the appearance of an animal. Note: By-Law turned back by government in summer 2010; passed in Nov 2010.
New Brunswick NBVMA [Regulator and Association]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking in dogs, horses, and cows • Tail nicking and setting in horses • Ear cropping in dogs • Declawing in species other than cats 	By-Law: Considered professional misconduct for a veterinarian to perform cosmetic surgery (non-therapeutic surgical procedures which alter the appearance of an animal for purely cosmetic purposes). [March 31, 2009]
Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec [Regulator]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear cropping • Tail docking 	Position Statement: Surgeries considered unethical in Position statement. Encourage members to educate the public and remind public that surgeries are veterinary procedures not to be performed by non-veterinarians. Plan: to integrate animal welfare positions into a new Act.
Ontario OVMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking in equine, bovine, or canine species • Tail nicking/setting in the equine species Ear cropping in canine species • Onychectomy in 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.
CVO – The College of Veterinarians of Ontario	Rather than banning any specific surgery from the scope of veterinary medical practice, the CVO has approached this very complex and wide-ranging issue by grouping surgeries from the wide spectrum of "medically unnecessary" procedures into "acceptable," "questionable," and "not acceptable" categories, according to what is believed to be the current consensus of the veterinary profession in Ontario. Practice standards are set over time by the profession itself, and so it is expected that this document will evolve as standards and society's attitudes also evolve.	The CVO appreciates your ongoing interest in the development of its policy document on Medically Unnecessary Surgery. Your input is important as Council reviews the issue in developing policy. The CVO Council has developed a policy document on Medically Unnecessary Surgery and is currently circulating the draft document to all interested parties for review and comment.
Manitoba MVMA [Regulator and Association]	Cosmetic Surgery	Task Force working on educational platform for breeders and public at large; hope to draft a by-law.
Saskatchewan SVMA [Regulator and Association]	Cosmetic Surgery	Banned ear cropping. Does not include tail docking or dewclaw removal
Alberta [Regulator and Association]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tail docking: equine, bovine, or canine • Tail nicking/setting in the equine species • Ear cropping in canine species • Onychectomy in other than domestic cat 	Supports CVMA recommendations: It is not professional misconduct to perform any surgery; issue needs to be addressed by industry and society generally.
British Columbia CVBC [Regulator]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ear cropping • Tail docking 	Implicit in Act that unnecessary surgery might lead to a misconduct finding, depending on all circumstances. Could develop a by-law in the future (straw poll "to ban" was in favour).