

RESOLUTION 1

Submitted by
American Animal Hospital Association
California Veterinary Medical Association
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians

POSITION STATEMENT ON EAR CROPPING AND TAIL DOCKING OF DOGS

RESOLVED, that the American Veterinary Medical Association adopt the following as the AVMA position on ear cropping and tail docking in dogs:

Ear cropping and tail docking in dogs for cosmetic reasons are not medically indicated nor of benefit to the patient. These procedures cause pain and distress, and, as with all surgical procedures, are accompanied by inherent risks of anesthesia, blood loss, and infection. Therefore, veterinarians should counsel dog owners about these matters before agreeing to perform these surgeries.

Statement about the Resolution

- The statements in the resolution and position are factual.
- The position does not prohibit veterinarians from performing tail docks or ear crops on dogs for cosmetic purposes. It does, however, stipulate that dog owners be properly advised about the risks and discomfort associated with these procedures, and that they are not medically necessary.
- Many owners of certain breeds are under the impression that they *must* have their dog's ears cropped or tail docked. This position would ensure that these dog owners are properly educated before they make a decision.
- This position does not apply to ear crops and tail docks performed for therapeutic reasons.
- The budgetary impact of this resolution is nil.