



History of Policy on Ear Cropping and Tail Docking of Dogs

1976 POLICY

Suggested by the American Animal Hospital Association and approved by the AVMA House of Delegates

Resolved, that the American Veterinary Medical Association recommend to the American Kennel Club and appropriate breed associations that action be taken to delete mention of cropped or trimmed ears from breed standards for dogs and to prohibit the showing of dogs with cropped or trimmed ears if such animals were born after some reasonable future date.

1999 POLICY

Suggested by the American Animal Hospital Association, California Veterinary Medical Association, Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association, Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, and American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians and approved by the AVMA House of Delegates

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.

2008 POLICY

Recommended by the Animal Welfare Committee and approved by the AVMA Executive Board

The AVMA opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes. The AVMA encourages the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards.

2012 POLICY

Reaffirmation of the 2008 policy recommended by the Animal Welfare Committee and approved by the AVMA Executive Board

The AVMA opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes. The AVMA encourages the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards.