

# TAILDOCKING



The Australian National Kennel Council [ANKC] totally opposes any move to ban the tail docking of some breeds of purebred dogs.

Opponents of tail docking now claim that it is performed for cosmetic reasons because their previous claims such as 'cruelty' cannot be substantiated and fail in logic.

The ANKC rejects the claim that tail docking is carried out for cosmetic reasons. Tail docking is a long established animal management practice based upon injury prevention and health enhancement.

In the United Kingdom 64 practising and experienced veterinarians have publicly opposed any move to ban tail docking and a further 37 have committed to the opposition. They have done so due to their belief that docking does serve a useful purpose, that their experience has shown docked puppies experience no adverse effects, and that the opposition to docking is not based on science and considered reason.

Tail docking is carried out by ANKC members strictly in accordance with a Code of Practice that specifies which breeds may be docked; the reasons for docking; the age limitations for docking; who may dock; and provides for penalties for non compliance with the code. This Code was introduced with the welfare of puppies foremost in mind.

Docking of puppies of breeds listed as docked breeds is not compulsory under ANKC Rules, and the ANKC will vigorously defend its members right to choose whether to dock or not dock.

Tail docking of specific breeds is based upon practical experience with those breeds and the knowledge that the docking prevents injury and other health issues. There is no scientific evidence to show that tail docking harms a puppy in any way.

Governments and welfare agencies would do well to address the core issues relating to animal welfare. Dogs do suffer through mismanagement, improper breeding and overbreeding. Currently these essentially human problems are addressed by the euthanasia of dogs and the mass neutering of dogs. The welfare of dogs would be better served by programs aimed at the education of people.

## LATEST UPDATE FROM 'THE DOGBODY'

### STORY OF THE DOGBODY

We three (Alan Candlish, Patricia Hall and Nancy Keck) got to know each other when on the People And Dogs Working Party with the Royal NSW Canine Council.

Whilst seeing the benefits of such a working party and in fact still being members of it, we found the delays in getting things done very frustrating and these delays often resulted in inaction or disapproval by the Board of Directors. Many issues need urgent immediate action and PAD is unable to enact this. The three of us have a great love of animals, and dogs in particular. We would like, in fact insist upon, the right to own and love the breed of our choice and care for it using the traditional animal husbandry practices in relation to that breed. I'm sure we all intend to live with our dogs as companions well into our dotage and hope that our grandchildren and their grandchildren ad infinitum will be free to own and love the breed of their choice. This thinking extends to all breeds of dogs now and in the future.

We are very aware, in this sometimes strange world we have, that there are groups of fanatical people who would rid the world of all domestic animals.

This is unfortunately a worldwide phenomena – not science fiction. These people have for many years infiltrated good and worthy organisations involved in animals and their welfare. They instigate campaigns which outwardly appear to have the welfare of a particular domestic animal in mind, but is in fact a well planned step in the annihilation of a species.

This of course includes Dogs, Cats, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Horses, in fact any animal used by man in whatever capacity.

Dogs are a very easy target. There is a prepared list of things to eliminate in dogs. Some of these are to eliminate the brachycephalic breeds, white dogs, blue merle dogs, long ears, small ears, long legs, short legs, long backs, giant breeds – almost every breed known is on the list for "modification".

Sounds a bit like Hitler's plan for non Aryans doesn't it? We believe the first step in the process is to attempt to ban the practice of Tail Docking world wide.

In Australia this would affect 57 breeds and I believe those breeds make up more than 50% of the total number of purebred dogs in Australia. Many of the places which have banned tail docking overseas are minority countries, and also governed by the

close to "Greens".

Breed Specific Legislation which is already being enacted in parts of Australia and threatening in New Zealand is also a step in the process.

We have received several comments that "The DogBody" is only interested in Tail Docking and Breed Specific Legislation. The answer is an emphatic NO.

However, they are the two prominent issues at the moment that must be addressed NOW.

We sincerely believe if we can STOP THE ROT at this point, other issues will recede into the background. Note I said "background" – it won't go away and we must be vigilant and active. We are prepared to fight on all active fronts for all dog breeds.

Questions have been asked as to the "The DogBody's" intentions towards the Australian National Kennel Council and the State Controlling Bodies. One frequent question is "why do we need the ANKC if we have The DogBody?"

Quite simple "The DogBody" is a Lobby Group whose sole interest is DOGS. Being independent of any organisation or body gives us the ability to LOBBY whoever, whenever necessary. NSW members will recall the Royal NSW Canine Council Annual General Meetings when The DogBody put forward two motions and lobbied for support – with outstanding success!

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# If you love your dog as much as we love ours, cut out this ad.





**A simple and painless task you would think?**  
Absolutely. And one that is designed to assist registered dog breeders and owners throughout New South Wales to quell the fears of certain groups pressuring our government to legislate against the practise of "tail docking".

What is "tail docking"? It involves the surgical removal of a section of tail in some dog breeds within the first few days of their life. Why is it done? Tail docking is not a purely cosmetic procedure, as some ill-informed would have you believe. It applies to breeds that are susceptible to tail damage as adults and also provides for improved hygiene. Is it cruel? No. New-born puppies do not experience any major discomfort and quickly adjust. It would be cruel to see an older dog suffering from tail damage as a result of working or even normal play.

We're asking you, as a responsible dog owner, to help protect the rights of those who love dogs more than anything. The breeders. Give them the chance to decide what is best for their breed. These people spend countless hours caring for, exercising, grooming and training dogs, all under a charter that stipulates no harm must come to their animals. They maintain breeding standards that are often centuries old, preserving a heritage that has seen New South Wales breeders compete successfully on an international level and ensuring your choice of the best dog to suit your family.

**Don't give the decision to those who may not even own a dog.** This is your chance to ensure that the people who have dedicated their lives to their best friends can continue to give them the care and respect they so rightly deserve.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
do NOT approve of legislation that will ban tail docking by breeders registered with the RNSNCC.  
Please fill out and post to your Local Member of Parliament.

Take the lead. Protect your breed.



So in effect we will fight the politicians, the animal activists, the State Controlling Bodies and the ANKC if necessary – anybody and anything that will lead to the demise of our beloved companions, workmates and friends the DOG. We will happily work alongside those willing to assist our endeavors.

We are there for the DOGS and their owners. Please consider joining "The DogBody" and helping our furry friends.

NANCY KECK, MEMBER – The DogBody.

In WA the Animal Welfare Bill was passed WITHOUT the tail docking issue and a Working Party was formed consisting of:

- 1 representative from the RSPCA
- 1 representative from the AVA
- 2 representatives from the WA Canine Council.

Congratulations to all the WA members who fought so hard.

In SA the Bill has been delayed until Feb/March when all of the interested Ministers from every State, the Commonwealth, the Territories and NZ meet to formulate a common National approach to tail docking.

Congratulations to all the SA members who won the first skirmish.