

Preservation or Extinction?

The dog world is rapidly moving into dangerous times with the likes of radical groups such as PETA setting their sights and turning their focus on Australia. So, you may say, you don't own sheep, and Abercrombie and Finch doesn't have shops here.....but my question to you is "Do you own any animal?" If you do then now is the time to act, because if you don't your children and grandchildren will only know about dogs and any other pet animal, from story books.

You may say, "Well, what can I do?"

There are a number of courses one can follow, and the one that will have the most impact is to become politically active. Choose your "poison", join a political party, attend a meeting or two and make your feelings known about how you wish to retain your right to own and breed the dog of your choice.

Remember, politicians make the laws, but policy of political parties comes from the grass root membership ideals and opinions being aired and put forward.

If you don't want to join a political party write to your State and Federal MPs and tell them your story. If one tenth of the dog owners across this country stood up and said "I want to be able to own a dog, cat or goldfish" the Government might soon see the picture and realize that radical animal groups are a minority.

The silent majority must become vocal, otherwise we will face extinction.

Raise your objection to radical groups trying to remove your right to own a companion animal. Question as to why Ingrid Newkirk, President of PETA should be even allowed to enter this country on a visa when she is promoting radical behaviour and wishes to destroy our wool industry. The UK government has banned some of the hierarchy of PETA, and their affiliates, from obtaining entry visas to the UK. Perhaps our Government should be doing the same?

In the UK, extremists removed the remains, from her grave, of the mother of owners of a small business and

held them to ransom. Violence, intimidation and threats are commonplace as part of their general operations.

You might say, "But it will never happen here, we live in Australia!" Radical extremist type behaviour is already surfacing here! I had a phone call from a dog breeder living in rural NSW today, to tell me that when she was riding her horse, she was attacked by a small group of extremists, who stoned her and shouted that she was denigrating her horse by riding it! Extremists are now surfacing in small pockets everywhere, fuelled by the likes of PETA and Animal Liberation!

As the National Secretary of The Dogbody Inc I wish to announce that it has recently undergone changes and expansion, and we are now a National Body with a National Committee. We need your support to grow and expand and tell every ordinary Australian that their right to own a dog is being eroded, piece-by-piece, by legislation, restrictions and controls, and it will get much worse! We have already seen a tail docking ban, in varying degrees, come into play in Australia, and your right to own particular breeds of dogs in some States of Australia has now been stopped.

Help us to help you, become a member of Dogbody, keep informed via our bi-monthly newsletter, and fight alongside us to preserve and protect our dogs!

Visit our website at thedogbody.com and download a membership form or phone me on 0417685 028 or email janbaker@ozemail.com.au and I will assist you in anyway I can. Our website contains contact details of all of our national directors, and area representatives.

The Dogbody Inc has established a "fighting fund" in order to support its members, and donations are welcome. We are there for you and fighting for you.

We must make a difference, the consequences of inaction are dire, and the threat is very real.

Let's lead the way, put apathy behind us and stop the extinction of the dog world!

JAN BAKER

Opinion - Tail Docking? Just Do It.

In the last issue of National Dog/Ringleader, the RNSWCC Working Party on Tail Docking provided a summary of information based on legal advice, which they recently obtained.

Talking to a lot of docked breed owners and exhibitors in NSW, I found they were scared spitless by some of that information. So I went over it a bit more thoroughly to see why.

I am not a lawyer, but have been involved in the fight to protect our rights of choice on tail docking for several years. We have also obtained a lot of information, and legal opinion on these issues, particularly on the issues of right of access to your dogs by "animal welfare officers".

To enforce a ban on tail docking, animal welfare officers will have to become like the "Thought Police" of the book "1984", just 20 years late. The RSPCA used to be a respectable welfare group, but now in my humble opinion, the alphabet soup now stands for Rotten Society for Persecution of Companion Animal owners.

The question of access to your "premises" or "home/residence" is crucial. Animal Welfare Inspectors have a legal right to inspect your premises where dogs are kept, if they have "reasonable grounds". However, they have NO right to go fishing for information to use against you.

Let's take these one at a time. This generally applies to all States and Territories.

PREMISES. This includes your kennels and grounds. ONLY. No more than that. It specifically does not include your house or residence.

The advice given to the committee seems to assume we are all professional, commercial breeders and traders. Most of us are not, it is our hobby, our passion, and it is not commercial unless you claim your expenses as a tax deduction, and declare your income from breeding! The tax office does not regard selling some of the product of peoples' hobbies as taxable income. Some breeders with a lot of dogs have council approval as a boarding kennel, whilst hardly ever having boarders. Those premises might well be regarded as "commercial".

I expect any responsible owner or breeder to have acceptable premises, i.e. poo picked up regularly and disposed of properly, bedding in good order, kennels clean, water and food available, etc. I apologize if I'm telling people how to suck eggs, but it is important not to give an inspector grounds to be critical and look for issues to exploit.

RESIDENCE. Contrary to the impression given in that information sheet, an Inspector does NOT have any AUTOMATIC right of entry to your residence.

They must request permission to enter, and you have the right to refuse permission, regardless of any excuse they may give you. Just like police officers, they can only require entry with a search warrant served on you. Other than this, they can only enter if they actually see an "act of cruelty" taking place. This usually means finding starving, neglected animals.

Your residence includes your house, and can include outbuildings provided they have certain facilities, that is a bed and running water. There were 2 interesting cases last year investigated by the ICAC [Independent Commission Against Corruption] in NSW, where 2 Upper House Members of Parliament were found to be claiming "Living Away from Home Allowances" incorrectly. Both ICAC and an Upper House Parliamentary inquiry found that the locations claimed as residences did not qualify as "residences" because they did not have a bed or running water. Both were just tin sheds.

So if you sleep close to whelping bitches outside your house, provided the shed or building has a bed and running water, it can be deemed as part of your residence and not accessible to an inspector without your permission. It does not need a toilet. There are plenty of homes [like mine] with an outside dunny.

We do not allow anybody near a bitch and newborn pups, and will not allow access in the future to protect them from infection and avoid upsetting the mother.

REASONABLE GROUNDS. Unlike the other issues, which can be quite clear, this is a very open question. Exactly what is "reasonable"? Where can an inspector get information from, to make that judgment? Sadly, the most likely source could be a competing exhibitor who cannot see the big picture past the end of their nose. Another possible source can be your vet, but more likely, his/her nurses. If you have a docked breed, remind your vet where their dollars come from.

You do not have to agree with an inspector's version of "reasonable grounds". They also do not have any right to "go fishing" for information from you, so after giving your name and address, say no more. If you suspect they are "fishing", be helpful, lend them a fishing rod and give directions to the nearest creek, but say nothing about your dogs. Just like police officers, any information you provide may be used against you. If they believe their information is so good, they can test it before a magistrate and try to get a warrant. Magistrates just love trivial cases clogging up their courts.

In the 2002/2003 financial year the RSPCA investigated some 48888 allegations of "cruelty". There is no report on how many complaints were received but not investigated. From those investigations there were only 330 prosecutions [less than 1%], and not all were successful.

This was before tail docking was banned in some States and restricted in others. There is NO national ban. I conclude the RSPCA "cherry picks" their cases and only prosecutes where they think they have a 90/95% chance of winning.

Docking tails on pups correctly has never been cruel or painful, or the practice would not have started, far less continued for hundreds or even thousands of years.

So if you believe you have always docked you pups correctly for the proper reasons, including their long-term health, JUST DO IT. Be discrete, say nothing and then proudly present your pups to the world in accordance to their traditions.

KLAUS KECK Rylstone NSW

And NOW! This was just forwarded by A concerned breeder

The RSPCA, Animals Australia, Animal Welfare League, Animal Liberation, Cat Protection Society etc have a submission now with The Bureau of Animal Welfare for the compulsory de-sexing of all pets at 12 weeks

When speaking to someone who was with the Dept of Primary Industries they quoted that they want it to be at point of sale. That no puppy goes to a new home without being de-sexed prior to sale It also appears that the VCA were sent a letter re a survey on this, but it never went any further than the office....

If, like so many other draconian regulations, this becomes fact, it makes our worries about the increasing difficulties of pursuing our sport and enjoying our hobby fade into insignificance. We won't need to worry, because we will simply no longer be able to function. How many great dogs have been bred over the ages by people placing a puppy in a safe home for the future, or by finding as can happen, that what was pick of the litter at 12 weeks is NOT pick of the litter at 12 months, or heaven forbid, your top stud animal becomes infertile or is lost in some accident, We have always been able to source littermates to try to fill that gap, but no longer will that be possible..

Please everyone, TAKE THIS AS THE SERIOUS THREAT IT IS!
GET ORGANISED,
DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEONE ELSE TO FIGHT THE BATTLE,
DO SOMETHING YOURSELF AND DO IT NOW!

PETA

Organizations such as PETA are setting their sites on Australia, with support for their attacks on the Australian wool industry by the likes of Animals Australia.

The real facts about PETA reveal them to be an organization with sub-cultures who will stop at nothing to change the world as we know it into a vegan society where pets, i.e. companion animals will no longer exist (they promote mandatory desexing for ALL dogs and cats for a period of 5-7 years), and where rats have as many rights as children!

Here are a few quotes from Ingrid Newkirk, President:

There's no rational basis for saying that a human being has special rights. A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy. They're all animals. - Washingtonian Magazine (August 1, 1986)

Even if animal tests produced a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it. - Vogue (September 1, 1989)

One day, we would like an end to pet shops and the breeding of animals. [Dogs] would pursue their natural lives in the wild ... they would have full lives, not wasting at home for someone to come home in the evening and pet them and then sit there and watch TV. - The Chicago Daily Herald (March 1, 1990)

The bottom line is that people don't have the right to manipulate or to breed dogs and cats... If people want toys, they should buy inanimate objects. If they want companionship, they should seek it with their own kind. - Animals (May 1, 1993)

I don't use the word 'pet.' I think it's speciesist language. I prefer 'companion animal.' For one thing, we would no longer allow breeding. People could not create different breeds. There would be no pet shops. If people had companion animals in their homes, those animals would have to be refugees from the animal shelters and the streets. You would have a protective relationship with them just as you would with an orphaned child. But as the surplus of cats and dogs (artificially engineered by centuries of forced breeding) declined, eventually companion animals would be phased out, and we would return to a more symbiotic relationship - enjoyment at a distance. - The Harper's Forum Book, Jack Hiit, ed., 1989, p.223

In the end, I think it would be lovely if we stopped this whole notion of pets altogether. -

Newsday (February 21, 1988)

There is no hidden agenda. If anybody wonders about -- what's this with all these reforms -- you can hear us clearly. Our goal is total animal liberation. [emphasis added] - "Animal Rights 2002" convention (June 30, 2002)

Websites to look at:

<http://www.animalscam.com/>

http://www.activistcash.com/organization_overview.cfm/oid/21

<http://www.animalactivist.com/clothing.asp>

<http://www.peta.org/>



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The Dogbody is not just about the issue of tail docking, there are a number of other issues that should be of concern to any dog owner, some of which we will briefly outline in this article.

Dogbody committee members continue to make representations to Members of Parliament on behalf of Dogbody and its members on an ongoing basis. We hope to be able to publish

responses and successes of our representations in the future.

We have received a number of submissions from Dogbody members in relation to the proposal to bring in compulsory DNA testing for all dog registrations. We are presently making enquiries to determine exact definitions of compulsory testing, and the impact it will have.

Breed Specific Legislation, otherwise known as BSL will become the scourge of the dog world if we do not take steps now to stop it in its tracks. You may well ask 'What is BSL?' BSL targets breeds instead of deeds, BSL condemns all dogs of that breed because of the actions or appearance of a few. BSL is not legislation proposed by dog people, (who are the people who know dogs best) it is proposed by anti-dog people! In Europe BSL is being used as a means to ban dogs on their appearance, too long, too tall, too big, too heavy, too short in leg, too short in muzzle... and the list goes on and on. In fact, this has already started happening in parts of Europe! And it ALL started with a ban on tail docking first!

Does BSL exist in Australia? Ask residents of Qld how restrictive some local Councils are becoming! BSL is alive and well in Australia, with Qld State law allowing Councils to restrict individual breeds at a whim! And very soon other States will follow. DID YOU KNOW THAT HENRY PALASZUK, QLD'S PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER RECENTLY RECEIVED AN AWARD FROM ANIMAL LIBERATION FOR HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A BAN ON TAIL DOCKING?

We need your help to defend your right to own a dog of your choice. The dogbody opposes restrictive laws and will fight with you and for you to defend your rights and stop restrictions spreading like a plague.

Please join us in this fight before it also becomes too little too late!