



Position Statement on Cosmetic Procedures: Tail Docking & Ear Cropping

Position

The Humane Society of Kitchener Waterloo & Stratford Perth (HSKWSP) supports an animal's welfare over all cosmetic amputations and opposes all instances of cosmetic amputation, including tail docking and ear cropping.

Rationale

1. Cosmetic amputation is painful and harmful to an animal.

Tail docking and ear cropping are painful procedures for an animal. Veterinarians agree that these procedures cause an animal a significant amount of pain. These amputations can cause long-term harm to an animal. It can cause surgical complications, such as excess bleeding, infection, delayed healing and necrosis. It can also cause chronic health issues, such as underdeveloped pelvic musculature, damage to the central nervous system and a higher incidence of incontinence.

2. Tails and ears are important to an animal.

Tails and ears are important to an animal's movement and balance. Some dog breeds have whip-like tails that allow them to change direction at high speeds. Certain dog breeds use tails as rudders for swimming and balance while running, and losing their tails puts dogs at a disadvantage. Tails and ears are essential communication tools. They are used to spread their scent to other animals. For example, tails between a dog's legs reduce their smell to other animals. Ears can show if a dog is worried or relaxed. Animals also communicate frequently with their tails and ears. They show emotions to other animals and humans using these limbs.

3. Canadian law is lagging other developed nations and even its own Provinces.

- 35 Countries have adopted Tail Docking Bans.
- Newfoundland, PEI and Nova Scotia have made tail docking and ear cropping illegal.
- England and Wales made tail docking a criminal offence in 2006, and those convicted of unlawful tail docking are liable to a fine of up to £20,000, up to 51 weeks of imprisonment or both.

Recommendation:

The HSKWSP recommends that the Province of Ontario and the Canadian Government implement a ban on all cosmetic amputations in Ontario and across Canada by making it an illegal activity.