

Council of Docked Breeds



Which one would you dock?

The draft Animal Welfare Bill proposes a ban on the docking of dogs' tails, but allows an exemption for 'Working dogs,' such as gundogs which are used in the shooting field. The vet who docks the dog will have to establish that the animal is indeed destined for work. And because dogs must be docked before their eyes are open, he will have to do so when the puppy is between 48 and 96 hours old.

Both of the dogs shown above are pedigree English springer spaniels. One of them is a working dog, the other is a show dog. Could you tell these two dogs apart at 48 hours of age? And if docking one spaniel is acceptable in animal welfare terms, then what's the big deal about docking the other?

Long experience indicates that, carried out correctly, the procedure causes no pain or discomfort. Indeed, some puppies docked whilst asleep do not even wake up. There is no evidence that development or weight gain are in any way arrested by docking. Tens of thousands of happy, well-adjusted dogs are also testimony to the fact that docking causes no problems of balance or communication in adulthood.

Which is why breeders of traditional docked breeds want to retain the right to have their litters lawfully docked by their vet. **It's called freedom of choice.**

For more information on docking visit the Council of Docked Breeds at www.cdb.org
email ginette@cdb.org or telephone the CDB on 07000 781262

Or contact the Kennel Club at www.the-kennel-club.org.uk
email pbuckley@the-kennel-club.org.uk or telephone 020 7518 1020



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**SUPPORT THE FREEDOM TO CHOOSE
SUPPORT THE DOCKING OPTION**

