

# Council of Docked Breeds



## Our preference is that there should continue to be freedom of choice\*

Not our words, but those of the Government. The docking of dogs' tails has been endlessly debated in the discussions that led up to the framing of the Animal Welfare Bill. The dog world, including breed societies and the Kennel Club overwhelmingly supports the docking option. Now, in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanies its Animal Welfare Bill, the Government has said its preference is that the option to dock should remain.

Docking must be carried out by a registered veterinary surgeon, and is normally undertaken in the first 24 to 96 hours of life. 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.

The Government prefers freedom of choice, but it has said that docking is an issue for Parliament to decide. So now it's up to you.

Dog breeders and exhibitors love their dogs to bits. To them, the welfare of their dogs is of the utmost importance, now and in the future.

Which is why they urge you to retain the right for them to have their litters lawfully docked by their vet.

\*Animal Welfare Bill Regulatory Impact Assessment, paragraph 15, October 2005

When the Government consulted on animal welfare in 2002

- All 113 dog breed clubs which responded, representing 12,744 members, said docking *should not* be banned
- 1,590 members of the public commented on docking, 80% of whom *opposed a ban*
- More than half of the 33 vets who responded on docking said it should *not be banned*

For more information on docking visit the Council of Docked Breeds at [www.cdb.org](http://www.cdb.org)  
email [ginette@cdb.org](mailto:ginette@cdb.org)  
or telephone the CDB on 07000 781262

Or contact the Kennel Club at [www.the-kennel-club.org.uk](http://www.the-kennel-club.org.uk)  
email [pbuckley@the-kennel-club.org.uk](mailto:pbuckley@the-kennel-club.org.uk)  
or telephone 020 7518 1020



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

