

Tail Docking

Dear MP's and Peers,

Ministers have had three and a half years to consider this subject since it was first opened to public consultation. Government officials have considered it from every angle and perspective, and they finally announced last October that their preference was "to maintain the freedom to choose and allow vets to dock if they considered it appropriate".

During the Committee stage of the Animal Welfare Bill, most comments made by MP's displayed no regard to the Consultation findings and many appeared to be simply quoting RSPCA propaganda which is not backed up by any scientific fact whatsoever. There is one fact that is all important:

Do not only listen to what the Council of Docked Breeds or the Kennel Club says, what do other experts say:

FACT —TAIL DOCKING IS NOT PAINFUL

"Pain is possibly the least powerful argument, as it is so slight". John Bower MRCVS, former BVA President, **anti-docking** written submission to the Scottish Parliamentary Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

"Scientists from across the globe agree that tail docking does not cause pain, as research distinguishes between groups of newborn animals, including dogs, and confirms that they are relatively immature at birth and up to around two weeks of age, and so cannot feel the same degree of pain as human babies, lambs and calves. Therefore, it seems unnecessary to amend current legislation". UK Government Regulatory Impact Assessment Note – Animal Welfare Bill.

So, as the experts agree that docking is not painful, why not vote for the status quo which allows only veterinary surgeons to continue the practice?

If you are inclined to support docking for working dogs only, then please consider this: If it is not cruel to dock one breed, how can it be cruel to continue docking all currently docked breeds?

You are invited to call the Council of Docked Breeds on 01945 780807 or 07762 807079 to discuss the "facts" or to visit our web site www.cdb.org



**Please support the status quo
and allow veterinary surgeons
to exercise their judgement**

