



Last stand for docked dogs at Crufts?

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When Crufts opens tomorrow (Thursday 9th March), the public will be able to see a large selection of the over 1 million docked dogs in the UK in one venue for themselves. But will this be for the last time? MPs will vote on tail docking in the Third Reading of the Animal Welfare Bill on 14th March. The general public, the Kennel Club, the CDB, countryside organisations and DEFRA all support tail docking, but other organisations do not.

“Last week, the heads of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) joined the RSPCA yet again, in calling on Parliament to ban the practice of tail docking as though they were announcing something new,” said Peter Squires, President of the Council of Docked Breeds.

“One would expect that perhaps they had found scientific research to back their claims but of course they still have none. The latest release from the RCVS Council smacks of hypocrisy. The closest they have to a study, was the *Working Party to Consider the Mutilation of Animals* in the 1980s. This report ran to in excess of 5,000 words and highlighted over forty mutilations. These were all covered and excused in depth for ‘economic or practical’ reasons except tail docking, where all it could manage to say was ‘College’s views already known’.”

The RSPCA states that ‘tail docking of puppies is a painful, unnecessary, and outdated brutal tradition’. This is in direct contrast to the conclusion DEFRA came to after three and a half years of consultations. After examining all of the evidence DEFRA concluded ‘Scientists from across the globe agree that tail docking does not cause pain’ **

Mr Squires added: “As we have come to expect from all anti docking campaigners by now, many alarmist adjectives, no substance and not the hint of any real scientific proof required to back up their views. MPs and the general public deserve more from what should be two highly respected organisations.

We cordially invite MPs and members of the public to visit Crufts, see the dogs concerned and to talk to us, the breeders. We are not the cruel heartless people the RCVS and RSPCA would make us out to be, neither are the hundreds of vets who currently dock perfectly legally and wish to continue”.

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For further information please contact Ginette Elliott on 07762 807079 or Peter Squires on 07708 880860

Note For Editors:

***(UK Government Regulatory Impact Assessment Note – Animal Welfare Bill, para. 15)*

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