



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

6th March 1996

Docked dogs 'will dominate at Crufts'

Three years after the prohibition of tail docking by non-veterinarians, dog breeders still expect docked entries to dominate the show ring next week at Crufts.

Despite a Kennel Club ruling that long-tailed entries in classes for the traditionally docked breeds must not be discriminated against by judges, the vast majority of breeders continue to have their puppies docked for right and proper reasons, says the Council of Docked Breeds. It points to a survey carried out at the most recent major Championship show at Manchester in February, where docked exhibits swamped their long-tailed brethren.

Out of 1,475 dogs exhibited in 24 traditionally docked breeds, only nine carried full tails. The highest proportion was in the Toy group, where five out of 148 dogs shown were not docked. Among the 670 exhibits in the Working and Terrier groups, there was not a single undocked dog to be seen.

“The Manchester survey clearly demonstrates what we have been saying all along, that breeders, owners and exhibitors want docked breeds to stay docked,” said Peter Squires, chairman of the Council of Docked Breeds.

“Despite the vitriolic campaign which has been waged against docking by the veterinary authorities and the RSPCA, caring breeders and owners know what is best for their breeds.”

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He added that the overwhelming dominance of docked dogs in the ring shows also that there are plenty of vets sympathetic to tail docking who are prepared to provide a service to breeders.

“We do not wish to ram tail docking down the throats of those few breeders who disagree with it; all we wish to do is to maintain the option to dock our dogs as we always have done. It must be clear to everyone that this desire is shared by the vast majority of breeders. At Manchester the facts spoke for themselves, and I expect to see the same at Crufts next week,” said Peter Squires.

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For further information prior to Crufts contact Graham Downing on 01206 263234 Peter Squires will be available during Crufts on mobile number 07771 954617

Notes for editors

At Manchester Championship Show (February 17th - 18th), 1,475 dogs were exhibited in the 24 classes for traditionally docked breeds. Nine were long tailed (0.610%)

In the Gundog group:	548 dogs were shown	3 were long tailed (0.55%)
In the Working group:	536 dogs were shown	none were long tailed (0%)
In the Terrier group:	134 dogs were shown	none were long tailed (0%)
In the Toy group:	148 dogs were shown	5 were long tailed (3.38%)
In the Utility group:	109 dogs were shown	1 was long tailed (0.92%)