



# Council of Docked Breeds

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Finnish vote is a warning, say breeders**

The ban on tail docking agreed this week by the Finnish parliament must serve as a warning to British dog breeders, owners and handlers, says the Council of Docked Breeds.

Finland's ban, which comes as part of a package of animal protection legislation, will end the docking of traditional docked breeds. No exception has been made for working gundogs, which can be expected to suffer greatly increased levels of injury as a result of the new legislation.

"It seems that Finnish dog breeders have done too little, too late to avert a ban. They have apparently failed to present their case with the strength and determination that was needed, and the result is all too apparent," said Peter Squires, chairman of the Council of Docked Breeds.

"Unless the arguments for docking are voiced loudly and clearly to Governments, then Governments will assume that no such arguments exist. I have enormous sympathy with Finnish docked breed owners and breeders, but now British show and working dog enthusiasts must stand together to make sure that what has happened to the Finns does not happen to us in the UK."

He added that the Finnish decision makes it all the more important that the British Government does not sign the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals without reserving its veto over a tail-dock ban.

"European legislation is creeping up on us. We have got to be on our guard and ready to defend our docked breeds in this country with vigour," said Peter Squires.

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