



# Council of Docked Breeds

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Court agrees docking 'not cruel'**

In a decision which has been welcomed by the Council of Docked Breeds, a court has affirmed that the docking of dogs' tails does not constitute cruelty.

Magistrates in Llanelli heard today (Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November) that Mrs Deborah Jones had docked the tails of her litter of cocker spaniel puppies. Mrs Jones pleaded guilty to the charge, under the 1954 Veterinary Surgeons Act, of performing veterinary surgery whilst unregistered. However the RSPCA, who brought the prosecution, alleged in addition that the tail docking was a cruel act and therefore in breach of the 1911 Protection of Animals Act.

After hearing evidence from Council of Docked Breeds Veterinary Advisor Donna MacDougal the court decided that the docking which Mrs Jones had performed was not in itself cruel, and dismissed the charge.

"We are very pleased at the court's decision," commented CDB chairman Peter Squires. "We do not condone docking by non-veterinarians, but it must be made quite clear that, provided it is properly carried out, docking does not constitute cruelty. The court has today supported that view.

"The RSPCA must have been perfectly well aware that their allegations of cruelty flew in the face both of accepted veterinary opinion, and of the evidence in this case. This was an ill-judged prosecution brought not on merit but on grounds of ideology, and the RSPCA richly deserved to lose."

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