



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

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Back door ban 'seen off', breeders told

The veterinary establishment has finally admitted that it cannot ban docking through threat of disciplinary action, members of the Council of Docked Breeds were told last week.

Speaking at the Council's Annual General Meeting at Ryton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire, CDB chairman Peter Squires told members that the announcement by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons that it was not proceeding to disciplinary hearings over two vets who had been alleged to have docked puppies tails outside the RCVS guidelines amounted to an admission of defeat.

"For the past four years pro-docking vets have had hanging over them the threat of disciplinary action by the RCVS. Now the College has all but admitted defeat. They have said that they find it impossible to ban docking by the back door, and that is a matter of great satisfaction to all of us who have the well being of our docked breeds at heart," said Peter Squires.

"However, it would have been a different story had it not been for the work of the CDB. We alone have fought for the right of dog breeders to retain the option to have their litters docked, within the law, by the growing number of veterinary surgeons who support our case."

Speaking about the dismissal by Magistrates in Llanelli of cruelty charges brought by the RSPCA against Mrs Deborah Jones, Mr Squires commented that the Society should by now be "drooping its head in shame." He reaffirmed the CDB's determination to fight, if necessary through the courts, to reaffirm that docking, when properly carried out, could not be regarded as in any way cruel.

"If nothing else, perhaps the RSPCA and the RCVS will realise that, after six years of campaigning, we will press our case passionately."

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However, Mr Squires warned that breeders who took the law into their own hands could not expect to receive support from the CDB. "There is no excuse for non-veterinarians docking their own litters. It is illegal and we cannot and will not condone it. There are plenty of supportive vets out there, and members only need to contact our helpline for advice," he said.

He finished with a plea for all owners and breeders of docked breeds, and those threatened by European legislation such as the Council of Europe Convention, to join the CDB and to regularly renew their memberships. "Only thanks to you, the CDB membership, are we able to maintain the effectiveness of our campaign," said Peter Squires.

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For further information contact Ginette Elliott on 01255 830993 or Graham Downing on 01206 263234