



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

28th April 1998

German docking ban is a warning from Europe

German moves against the keeping and showing of docked dogs must be taken as a warning to British dog owners against the growing threat of a docking ban from Europe, says the Council of Docked Breeds.

The new animal protection law, which comes into force on May 1st, will prohibit tail docking and in due course the keeping and showing of docked dogs in Germany. Exceptions will be allowed for dogs used for hunting.

“We are very concerned about this latest move by the German authorities. It will be very damaging to all those of our members who import and export dogs to and from Germany,” said Ginette Elliott, Secretary of the Council of Docked Breeds.

“Thanks to the representations of the German Kennel Club, hunting dogs may still be docked, and this will at least prevent some of the tail injuries which would otherwise occur. However, it remains to be seen how the exception will work in the case of dogs which are both worked and exhibited, and this new law could drive a wedge even further between the working and showing worlds.”

Mrs Elliott gave CDB support to German Kennel Club attempts to question the validity of the new legislation under European law.

“The German Kennel Club are obviously very worried. They have appointed a constitutional lawyer to consider whether the Animal Protection Act is compatible with EU legislation, and we wish them well in their legal battle. To show our good faith we are already giving financial support to dog breeders in Germany.

More....

“The speed with which this Act has been rushed through the legislative system is deeply worrying, and must come as a warning to all of those in Britain who have the interests of our traditional docked breeds at heart,” added Ginette Elliott.

The CDB is supporting German breeder Collette Hornig to set up an organisation to campaign against the new law. Collette may be contacted at: **justy@compuserve.com**

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