



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

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Sweeping new powers in Austrian animals Act

Close on the heels of German anti-docking legislation comes news of a draft Austrian federal animal protection Act due to come into force by the year 2000 which will prohibit docking and give sweeping power to local authorities to regulate owners and breeders.

State legislation will reach deep into the fine detail of the way in which dog owners care for and manage their animals. Implementing regulations will cover such matters as the equipping of kennels, the nature of collars and harnesses, and the size and fitting-out of transportation equipment. Those keeping animals 'for production' will be subject to inspection and evaluation on a points system, with points awarded in relation to the extent to which their facilities correspond to the animals' need. A points-based 'Suitability for Animals Index' will then decree which establishments are acceptable to the authorities and which are to be subject to an 'administrative punitive procedure'.

Tail docking will be absolutely forbidden, and a reconsideration of pedigree breed standards is required.

Local Authorities will also be able to issue detailed provisions for the keeping of particular breeds of dogs regarded as dangerous, to require proof of reliability, to inspect kennels and breeding establishments and to ban particular breeds altogether.

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“Anyone concerned at the far reaching effects that implementation of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals can bring need look no further than Austria,” said Ginette Elliott, Secretary of the Council of Docked Breeds.

“In the last few weeks we have seen new legislation sweep through the German speaking world, often to the amazement and horror of caring and responsible dog owners. This has been allowed to happen largely because breeders and owners have been unaware of what is going on within their own legislative systems. Only now, when it is too late, are they starting to realise the changes which will affect them.

“The CDB is determined that we in Britain will not sleepwalk into the same oppressive and unnecessary legislation,” said Ginette Elliott.

A full translation of the Austrian animal protection legislation can be found on the Council of Docked Breeds website at **www.cdb.org**

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