



# Council of Docked Breeds

## PRESS RELEASE

10<sup>th</sup> December 1998

### **New Euro dog laws are a warning, breeders told**

Rapid imposition of Austrian and German animal protection legislation which banned tail docking should act as a warning to British dog breeders and owners, members of the Council of Docked Breeds have been told.

Speaking in Kettering at the organisation's Annual General Meeting, CDB President Peter Squires said that the new laws, which have prohibited docking in Germany and which will give Austrian local authorities sweeping new powers to regulate dog ownership, caught dog owners and breeders by surprise.

"No breeders' or owners' organisation represented their interests. The fact is that they were unaware of the implications for their breeds and local traditions, and they have lost out as a result," said Peter Squires.

"We in Britain must take this as a dreadful warning not to allow legislation to creep up on us by stealth. If anyone doubts the potential impact which British endorsement of the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals would have on our docked breeds, then let them talk to our German and Austrian friends," he added.

He reported that the CDB had sought Counsel's opinion over the legality of a German ban on the importation of docked dogs from the UK. This had indicated that the ban fell foul of European legislation allowing the free movement of goods between EU member states, and that a challenge could be made through the German courts.

ctd.....

Peter Squires also drew attention to support which the CDB had given to breeders in New Zealand, where two animal welfare Bills have been introduced which would ban docking and restrict breeding programmes. The CDB had helped with the formation of a New Zealand Council of Docked Breeds. He urged members and supporters to keep in touch with the pro-docking campaign by visiting the CDB internet website at **www.cdb.org** and he pointed out that visitors to the site now total more than 34,000, with numbers increasing weekly.

In the UK there appeared to be no let-up in the number of breeders who had not organised a docking vet prior to whelping, and Peter Squires foresaw no reduction in the need for the helpline service which the CDB provided for its members. Allied to the helpline was the continued search for docking vets, the number of which continued to grow.

“We have no reason to believe that we shall become less busy as we enter the next twelve months,” Peter Squires concluded.

The meeting also remembered two of the pro-docking movement’s staunchest supporters who had died in the past year, and a minute’s silence was observed for Sandra Tonkyn and Larry Elsdon.

- ends -

For further information contact Graham Downing on 01206 263234