



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

10th June 1999

Norway to ban docked dogs

Docked dogs will not be permitted in Norway from 1st January 2000.

Following a request for clarification from the Council of Docked Breeds, officials of the Norwegian Animal Health Authority have confirmed that the present system of dispensations for the import and exhibition of docked dogs in Norway will be discontinued from the end of this year. In addition, dispensations granted for the remainder of 1999 will require the docking to be fully documented by the veterinary surgeon who actually performed the docking.

“Until now, Norwegian breeders wishing to import and exhibit new bloodlines could simply have a statement attached to the dog’s health certificate confirming that on the date of inspection the dog was docked. This is no longer the case,” said Ginette Elliott of the CDB.

“We are regularly asked by members about overseas regulations concerning docking, and it was in order to clarify the position in Norway that we contacted the authorities. They told us that dispensations for docked dogs granted up to 31st December will require authentication by the docking vet, and that from 1st January 2000 no further dispensations will be granted. From this date it will be necessary for Norwegian breeders who wish to import docked breeds from the UK or elsewhere to make sure that the dogs are not docked.”

The change in regulations will implement Norway’s 1974 Animal Welfare Act, which makes tail docking illegal.

“While this will not affect many UK breeders, it is a clear example of how legislation elsewhere in Europe could so easily end up on our doorstep if we are not very careful,” warned Ginette Elliott.

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