



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

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Undocked Ben's police career cut short

The sad case of Ben the springer spaniel shows the importance of tail docking to his breed, says the Council of Docked Breeds.

Staffordshire Police sniffer dog Ben suffered constant damage to his undocked tail during the course of his duties. His boisterous tail-wagging whilst hunting for drugs and explosives left his tail raw and bleeding - so much so that his handlers decided that the only option was to amputate it. Sadly, this put an end to Ben's professional career, as the operation also cut short his enthusiasm for police work.

"It only goes to show that whatever situation a spaniel finds itself in, an undocked tail can be a liability," said Ginette Elliott of the Council of Docked Breeds.

"It's not just gundogs that damage their tails. The problem is one which is faced by all working spaniels, and even by many of those which are simply kept in the home. We have constant enquiries from despairing owners whose pet dogs have cut open their tails on door posts, banister rails, even furniture."

The CDB says that it is only now that undocked spaniels are being brought into the home or asked to work that people are starting to realise the importance of docking.

"If Ben had been docked as a tiny pup, like generations of spaniels before him, he would never have had to undergo such a painful operation in adulthood, and he would still be a police dog today," said Ginette Elliott.

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