

TAIL DOCKING

Tail docking as a practice applies to various different species. Welfare requirements should always be observed when considering any form of docking.

Docking of Puppies' Tails:

The BVA is opposed to the docking of puppies' tails. BVA believes that puppies suffer unnecessary pain as a result of docking, and are deprived of a vital form of canine expression. Chronic pain can arise from poorly-performed docking.

BVA would reiterate that **surgical operations should not be undertaken unless necessary for therapeutic purposes and that docking should be banned as a procedure, other than for veterinary medical reasons, for all breeds of dog.**

Current Legislation in the UK

The docking of dogs' tails has been banned in:

- England and Wales except for certain working dogs or when the procedure is needed for medical purposes under [Animal Welfare Act 2006](#)
- Scotland, without any exemption for working dogs, under the [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#)

Tail docking of dogs is under review in Northern Ireland; however it remains legal at the current time.

For further advice please contact BVA