



Miniature schnauzer "Kaper"  
Ykelenstam's Kinetic Kaper  
Credit: Diane Ykelenstam

# EVERY DOG SHOULD HAVE A TAIL TO TELL ... AND THE EARS TO HEAR ONE!



Pembroke Welsh corgi "Victoria"  
Sterling Creek Victoria  
Credit: Lorraine Fisher

The dogs on this poster have not had their ears and/or tails altered

All puppies are born with tails, but in some breeds the tails are cut off — or docked — when the pups are a few days old. In some breeds parts of the ears are cut off — or cropped — generally between 9 and 12 weeks. These procedures are painful and of no medical benefit to the dog (i.e., cosmetic surgery), and are illegal in many countries (e.g., Scandinavia, many European countries, Australia, and New Zealand). Tail amputation may be performed if needed for medical treatment, such as injury.



Standard poodle "Sally"  
Høyanta Black Lorelai  
Credit: Signe Andersen

**CANADIAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
“The CVMA opposes surgical alteration of any animal for purely cosmetic purposes... The CVMA recommends that breed associations change their standards so that cosmetic procedures are not required.”

**WORLD SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION**  
“Surgical operations for the purpose of modifying the appearance of a companion animal for non-therapeutic purposes should be actively discouraged. Where possible, legislation should be enacted to prohibit the performance of non-therapeutic surgical procedures for purely cosmetic purposes.”

**NEW BRUNSWICK VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
“It is unprofessional conduct for a veterinarian in New Brunswick to perform cosmetic surgery on any animal” (March 2009). (Please check with your provincial VMA for its position.)

**CANADIAN FEDERATION OF HUMANE SOCIETIES**  
“CFHS is opposed to the mutilation of pet animals for cosmetic purposes, e.g., tail docking and ear cropping.”

**HELP ALL DOGS TO KEEP THEIR EARS AND TAILS**  
If you are looking for a puppy of a breed that traditionally has ears and/or tails altered, let the breeder know you do not want this done. You will have to do this before the pup is born as tails are docked within days of birth. Do not buy from breeders who insist that their dogs have cropped ears or docked tails.

Thank you to the British Veterinary Association Animal Welfare Foundation for permission to adapt their original poster, “Every dog should have a tail to tell...”



Jack Russell/Parson Russell terrier  
"Stella"  
Credit: Gillian Skippon



Old English  
sheepdog



Doberman pinscher



Boxer "Sergeant"  
Credit: Shelley Ebbett



Yorkshire terrier



Great Dane "Gwendaline"  
Credit: Rebecca Conway

## North America

### Breeds traditionally seen with cropped ears

- Boston terrier
- Boxer
- Doberman, Miniature, and German pinscher
- Great Dane
- Schnauzer (all sizes)
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Manchester terrier
- American Staffordshire terrier
- Brussels griffon

### Some of the breeds traditionally seen with docked tails\*

- Boxer
- Doberman, Miniature, and German pinscher
- Poodle (all sizes)
- Rottweiler
- Schnauzer (all sizes)
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Pembroke Welsh corgi
- Schipperke
- Some herding breeds (e.g., Old English sheepdog, Australian shepherd)
- Some sporting breeds (e.g., most spaniels, some pointers)
- Some terriers (e.g., Yorkshire, Jack Russell/Parson Russell, Norwich, Norfolk)

**\*Check with your national kennel club to find a specific breed.**



Cocker spaniel

