

NZDJA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

TAIL DOCKING AND HOW THIS WILL IMPACT THE CULTURE OF THE
PEDIGREE DOG IN NZ.

In particular as judges.

(Emphasis to be centred on a few selected breeds)

Presented by Martyn Slade NZ Council of Docked breeds Chair.

A BIT OF HISTORY

- Historically countries through out the World, through pressure from Animal Activist groups, who have been heavily funded and of late Veterinary Councils.
- These groups have brought emotional pressure on Government's to have the historical practice on the 66 breeds that have been docked to be banned in their country.
- Germany in 1998 was the first country to lead the charge.
- Many European countries followed.
- England, Scotland and Ireland followed in 2004.

A bit of History.

- In Australia NSW was the first state and then continued through each state until it finally hit Western Australia, this all began from about 2008.
- New Zealand experienced the first attack at having it banned in 2004, but was strongly opposed by the NZCDB and support from the then EC of the NZKC.
- Attacks on trying to have it banned have occurred since then and finally MPI succumbed to pressure from the SPCA, Companion Animals and the NZVA, with their huge funding, the minnow NZCDB fought relentlessly against their opposition, but MPI manipulated the situation and on the 1st Oct it will become law.

Dew claws

- The NZCDB represented its strong opposition in regards to the stupidity of not removing dewclaws for best practise in protecting harm to dogs if they are retained.
- In the past most of the NZCDB Accredited banders would while banding also remove the dewclaws for the breeder, as part of the procedure of tail banding.
- In fact dewclaws still can be removed, but by a vet, sadly the NZVA continues to threaten its members with cancellation of their practise licence if they remove them unless for therapeutic reasons.
- We tell show people/breeders to find the vet that will still do it.
- The Act says:

NZKC now Dogs NZ past role in tail docking.

- The NZCDB along with DNZ in 2010 presented a strong case to MAF and NAWAC to be able to be included in the Animal Welfare Act 2010 legislation.
- The outcome was that apart from Vets being able to tail dock that NZCDB provide for NZKC members and their respected registered dogs the right for an Accredited panel of tail banders to legally tail dock under the new 2010 Act.

DNZ were to and have provided a robust Audit system to ensure best practise from NZCDB members.

- From 2010 till the 1st Oct 2018 in excess of 7,500 dogs had been tail shortened with out one complaint against any of the accredited banders.

<u>Tails Docked</u>	<u>Tails Docked</u>	<u>Tails Docked</u>	<u>Tails Docked</u>	<u>Tails Docked</u>
	American Cocker Spaniel	Australian Shepherd	Black Russian Terrier	
Airedale Terrier	Bracco Italian	Bouvier des Flanders	Boxer	Poodle (Miniature)
Australian Terrier	Brittany	Old English Sheepdog	Central Asian Shepherd Dog	Poodle (Standard)
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	Cesky Fousek	Polish Lowland Sheepdog	Dobermann	Poodle (Toy)
Fox Terrier (Wire)	Clumber Spaniel	Pumi	German Pinscher	Schipperke
German Hunting Terrier	Cocker Spaniel	Pyrenean Sheepdog	Italian Corso Dog	
Glen of Imaal Terrier	English Springer Spaniel	Swedish Vallhund	Neopolitan Mastiff	
Irish Terrier	Feild Spaniel	Welsh Corgi (Pembroke)	Rottweiler	
Jack Russell Terrier	German Shorthaired Pointer		Schnauzer	
Kerry Blue Terrier	German Wirehaired Pointer		Schnauzer (Miniature)	
Lakeland Terrier	Hungarian Vizsla		Schnauzer (Giant)	
Norfolk Terrier	Hungarian Wire Haired Vizsla			
Norwich Terrier	Italian Spinone			
Parson Russell Terrier	Large Munsterlander			
Sealyham Terrier	Spanish Water Dog			
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier	Sussex Spaniel			
Tenterfield Terrier	Weimaraner			
Welsh Terrier	Welsh Springer Spaniel			

How the changes could impact on breeds and your judging decisions.

- In NZ over the past few years there has been an emergence of a variety of historically docked breeds being exhibited throughout NZ at shows.
- Mostly imported dogs from countries who have a tail docking ban in place.
- Due to Australian breeders breeding under the Dogs NZ docked breed protocols, many breeds have continued to remain of a high bench mark breed standard when they have been exported back.
- Sadly many docked breeds lost their Icon experienced breeders, who due to their strong believes hung their breeders/show leads up and retired from breeding.

Your judging decisions!

- Emerging & existing breeders in the traditionally docked breeds have continued, but in general their investment in new genes from other parts of the world in ways of live dogs or frozen semen has depleted and many breeds have gone backwards in breed type and quality.
- Breeders/Judges, remember, you have been given, by your predecessors, the torch and a blueprint to follow. As the Dobermann breed is only a little over 100 years old, it could be set back seriously in only a few generations of short-sightedness.
- Generally in Australia and NZ overseas judges have chosen to pick the breeds that have a docked tail over their counterparts who have a tail.

Time frame for change

- The general spoken word from the breeders who cannot and say they will not breed dogs and exhibit them with tails is very real.
- NZ Economy of scale could in reality create in NZ a genocide in many of the breeds.
- Its accepted that most likely you will continue to enjoy and see docked breeds in their respective groups for and up to another 4-to 6 years.
- But in the traditional docked breeds, on many of the new emerging show dogs, tails are appearing on those born after 1st Oct 2018.

What to look for.

- As you are trained judges and understand structure of the various breeds.
- I will speak about my own breed and try and express the problem with tails on Dobermanns into the future.
- Many judges still put up what we refer to in our breed as a GAY TAIL, this means it sits up at 12 oclock or folds over sitting at 11 o'clock, this is very wrong as our breed requires that the tail is carried at 2 o'clock
- That is moving or standing. Apart from the fact that a Dobermann with a Gay Tail, it is fundamentally a structural problem and rule of thumb if its bums out its front will also be out (meaning having a structural fault and the dog will not be balanced fore and aft)

What to look for?

- Commentary
- The correct tail carriage is only slightly above the horizontal. When the dog is alert, the tail carriage is between 2 o'clock and 3 o'clock .
- This should be when standing and gaiting.

What to look for: Correct tail pic 1. Gay Tail pic 2. Low set tail pic 3.



What to look for?

- The ideal hip bone falls away from the spine at an angle of 30 degrees. An angle less than 30-degrees can create a flatter croup and a “gay” tail. An angle greater than 30-degrees results in a more pronounced rounding of the croup and a lower tail set than is called for in the standard. An improperly angled hip bone will affect the silhouette of the dog, which diminishes his conformity to breed type.
- The angle of the Doberman’s croup is very important as it influences the dog’s gait. A flat croup does not allow a correct driving motion with feet close to the ground. A steep croup results in insufficient drive and follow-through of the hindquarters when trotting.

Where should a tail fly then?

- What has just been presented represents most breeds if they are structurally correct, so in saying that many of the breeds that tail sets should be 2 o'clock to 3.00 o'clock should also carry their tail when standing and on the move in this position.
- You are all familiar with the requirements in all the standards of where tails should be carried while standing and moving, and often the very strongly explained reasons why this is necessary.
- The Samoyed would be a perfect example?

Would should the tail look like then?

- Judges must recognize that although our Dobermann breed as along with many of the other traditionally docked breeds that they have had (has) many breeds in their (its) make-up, it must not look like anyone of them. You must see those breeds only as threads in the fabric. The making of the Dobermann is not over, but was has been observed in countries where tail docking is prohibited that the wide range of tail styles and positions they hold & full into when standing or on the move is of grave concern, as for a standard to be able to provide judges with a general interpretation of what it should appear like will be of concern.
- What this means is that as the breed(s) have never had tails it will take many generations for breeders to create what would be accepted as correct.

What's the tail meant to look like.

- Due to the docked breeds history, some many hundreds of years old
The evidence that has come out of countries in Europe states that it has been a nightmare to ascertain what the correct carriage of the tail should be and what the tail should even look like.
- From a breeders perspective it is going take many generations of breeding to try and fix what will be considered correct by the breed clubs to be able to be used in their standard.

Movement with a new appendix being a tail

- The sheer size, length and weight of tails that were unfamiliar for the 64 traditionally docked breeds, has brought about a change in the overall movement in a lot of the breeds.
- What we are starting to see is what would be described as a knitting needle type of gait, dogs throwing their rear legs around with out any strong efficient drive from the side, with the hocks mincing from behind.

What this will look like into the future.

- FCI countries have now taken it upon themselves to have put in place what they believe a Dobermann tail should like.
- The general consensus from many of the FCI counties who operate under the auspices of FCI breed standard rules, say that breeders were never consulted for input.
- What we are up against: FCI wording of the tail and appearance verses the English Kennel Club wording of the tail, as it follows.

The FCI illustration for the Doberman
TAIL: The tail is left natural and is ideally carried
high in a slight curve.

Dobermann



Offizielle Abbildung des Rassestandards Nr. 143
gültig für alle FCI angeschlossene Vereine

copyright Monique van Wijk, NL

English Dobermann Illustration from their breed standard.

Undocked: Appears to be a continuation of spine without material drop, kink or deformity. May be raised and carried freely when the dog is moving or standing.



Some pictures of English and European



Tail examples



Tail examples



Tail examples



Tail examples

