

# PENNSYLVANIA

On Aug. 27, Governor Rendell signed into Pennsylvania law a measure designed to protect dogs from undergoing painful surgical procedures at the hands of unskilled owners.

Under the new law, only licensed veterinarians can dock tails, crop ears, debark, remove dew claws and perform caesarian births.

Average pet owners are shocked to learn that these are common practice at commercial breeding facilities.

**The new law, which falls under Pennsylvania's cruelty code**, empowers local police, dog wardens and humane officers to demand proof on names, dates and locations of the vet who performed the surgery. Any dog with recent wounds should send up a red flag (to the trained eye anyway). Violations are a summary offense, punishable by fines of up to \$750.

## BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL BANNED TAIL DOCKING

Banfield, The Pet Hospital, the nation's largest network of animal hospitals, has announced it will no longer do tail docking, ear cropping or devocalization on dogs.

Headquartered in Portland, Ore., Banfield is the nation's largest general veterinary practice, with more than 730 hospitals and 2,000 veterinarians nationwide.

Devocalization, or de-barking, is a rare procedure and has long been controversial. It involves the full or partial removal of a dog's vocal chords to keep it from barking.

Tail docking and ear cropping, both quite common, have become more controversial over the past few years. Last year, the American Veterinary Medical Association passed a resolution opposing ear cropping and tail docking of dogs, "when done solely for cosmetic purposes," and encouraging the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking from breed standards.

Banfield has come out strongly against the procedures.

"After thoughtful consideration and reviewing medical research, we have determined it is in the best interest of the pets we treat, as well as the overall practice, to discontinue performing these unnecessary cosmetic procedures," says Karen Faunt, vice president for medical quality advancement. "It is our hope that this new medical protocol will help reduce, and eventually eliminate, these cosmetic procedures altogether."

The hospitals will continue to carry out the surgeries on pets for which it is medically necessary, she says.

There have been numerous attempts in several states, most recently Illinois, New York and Vermont, to outlaw the practice of tail docking and ear cropping. The American Kennel Club has fought such laws.

In statements opposing them, the AKC says that "as prescribed in certain breed standards, (they) are acceptable practices integral to defining and preserving breed character, enhancing good health and preventing injuries," and that "any inference that these procedures are cosmetic and

unnecessary is a severe mischaracterization that connotes a lack of respect and knowledge of history and the function of purebred dogs."

Gina Spadafori, an editor at the website PetConnection.com, says that tail docking is still fairly common, in part because it's done within days of birth. Ear cropping, which is generally done when the puppy is between 12 and 14 weeks old, is fading, in part because "people are not comfortable seeing their puppies taped up like that."

Both docking and cropping have gone out of fashion in Europe, she says. In the USA, many breeders of show dogs "would happily stop doing it if they thought they could still win in the ring."

Afghanistan	Unrestricted
Argentina	Unrestricted
Australia	Banned in all states and territories.
Austria	Banned
Belgium	Banned
Bolivia	Unrestricted
Brazil	Banned for cosmetic purposes.
Canada	Banned in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia by NBVMA and NSVMA; members of these provincial Veterinary Medical Associations are not allowed to perform the procedures on dogs by rule of their organizing body. However it is not Provincial law in Nova Scotia, nor Federal law in Canada.
	Banned in Newfoundland. NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR REGULATION 35/12
Chile	Unrestricted
Colombia	Considered unnecessary, painful, cruel and mutilation
Costa Rica	Unrestricted
Croatia	Banned
Cyprus	Banned
Czech Republic	Banned
Denmark	Banned, with exceptions for five gun dog breeds
Egypt	Unrestricted
England	Restricted - can only be done by vet on a number of working dog breeds.
Estonia	Banned
Finland	Banned
France	Unrestricted (France opted out of the rule regarding docking when it ratified the European Convention on the Protection of Pet Animals)
Germany	Banned, with exceptions for working gun dogs
Greece	Banned
Hungary	Unrestricted
Iceland	Banned
India	Unrestricted
Indonesia	Unrestricted
Iran	Unrestricted (tail docking and ear trimming are still taught in veterinary faculties in Iran)

Ireland	Unrestricted by law, but is not permitted by the Veterinary Council of Ireland who deem it to be unethical
Israel	Banned for cosmetic purposes.
Italy	Banned
Kuwait	Unrestricted
Latvia	Banned
Lebanon	Unrestricted
Lithuania	Banned
Luxembourg	Banned
Malaysia	Unrestricted
Morocco	Unrestricted - Morocco has no animal protection laws
Mauritius	Unrestricted
Mexico	Unrestricted
Nepal	Unrestricted
Netherlands	Banned
New Zealand	Cropping ears is banned, docking tails is restricted to those trained and acting under an approved quality assurance programme in puppies less than four days old.
Northern Ireland	Ear Cropping Illegal. Welfare of Animals Bill (2011) out rightly bans tail docking.
Norway	Banned
Peru	Unrestricted
Philippines	Unrestricted
Portugal	Cropping ears is banned. Docking tails is allowed, as long as it's performed by a veterinarian.
Poland	Banned
Russia	Restricted
Scotland	Banned
Slovakia	Banned
Slovenia	Banned.
South Africa	Banned
Spain	Banned in some autonomies
Sri Lanka	Unrestricted
Sweden	Banned
Switzerland	Banned
Taiwan	Unrestricted
Thailand	Unrestricted
Turkey	Banned
United States	Unrestricted (some states, including New York, and Vermont have considered bills to make the practice illegal)
Virgin Islands	Banned
Wales	Restricted - can only be done by vet on a number of working dog breeds.