



## **POSITION STATEMENT ON TAIL DOCKING AND EAR CROPPING**

---

### **NOTICE OF PROHIBITION ON TAIL DOCKING AND EAR CROPPING ISSUED BY THE ORDRE DES MÉDECINS VÉTÉRINAIRES DU QUÉBEC (OMVQ)**

WHEREAS the mission of the OMVQ is to ensure the protection of the public and animals, and in light of its position on animal welfare adopted in December 2009;

WHEREAS article 54 of the Code of Ethics of Veterinary Surgeons states that veterinarians must refuse to perform any operation which endangers the well-being of the animal or a population of animals or which, in their opinion, entails needless suffering;

WHEREAS tail docking and ear cropping are surgical procedures that can only be performed by veterinarians in accordance with current legislation, more specifically article 7 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act;

WHEREAS tail docking and ear cropping carried out using any procedure other than surgery, including the use of constricting bands, may violate fundamental principles of animal welfare and good practices;

WHEREAS tail docking and ear cropping for cosmetic reasons or breed-standard purposes in the breeds mentioned herein are practices whose purpose is not justified by sufficient scientific evidence;

WHEREAS the OMVQ has carried out, for over twenty years, awareness campaigns among the public and breeders regarding the ban on tail docking and ear cropping and done so even more actively in the last five years through various position statements;

WHEREAS tail docking and ear cropping for purposes other than medical reasons have been banned in many countries and provinces and prohibited under recommended codes of practice issued by the National Farm Animal Care Council in connection with the care of farm animals including dairy cattle, beef cattle and horses;

WHEREAS these surgical procedures do not improve the health of animals, but pose certain medical risks, such as those associated with anesthesia, postsurgical infections, acute pain and chronic pain;

WHEREAS the OMVQ opposes the practice of tail docking and ear cropping unless they are prescribed by a veterinarian for medical reasons;

The OMVQ forbids veterinarians to practise the following surgical procedures for cosmetic reasons or breed-standard purposes and will consider these practices to be in violation of the law:

- tail docking and ear cropping in cats and dogs
- tail docking in cattle
- tail docking in horses

Persons other than veterinarians who perform these surgical procedures in Quebec will be charged with the illegal practice of veterinary medicine and subjected to penalties under the law.

**This notice of prohibition will come into effect on January 1, 2017.**

