

## Tail Docking & Ear Cropping

### Position

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support ear cropping or tail docking when practiced purely for cosmetic reasons.

### Rationale

- There is no scientific evidence that cosmetic surgeries provide any welfare or medical benefit to animals.
- There is evidence to suggest that some cosmetic procedures cause acute and chronic pain, as well as behavioural evidence that cosmetic alteration may be detrimental to canine behavior.
- Research has shown the very low incidence of tail injuries in non-docked dogs does not provide sufficient protection against injury to justify tail docking of all animals.
- A dog's tail is important for balance and body language. Tail docking prevents this natural behaviour from occurring.

### References

1. Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. "A position statement on tail docking, ear cropping" CVMA Positions Statements, Jan. 2014
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Ear Cropping and Tail Docking."  
[http://cfhs.ca/athome/ear\\_cropping\\_and\\_tail\\_docking](http://cfhs.ca/athome/ear_cropping_and_tail_docking)