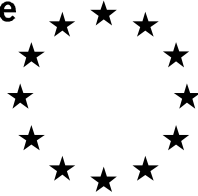


**Council of Europe**  
**Conseil de l'Europe**



Strasbourg, 10 March 1995

**MULTILATERAL CONSULTATION OF PARTIES TO THE EUROPEAN  
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF PET ANIMALS (ETS 125)**

Strasbourg, 7 - 10 March 1995

**Resolution on surgical operations  
in pet animals**

**Resolution on the breeding  
of pet animals**

adopted by the Multilateral Consultation on 10 March 1995

## **RESOLUTION ON SURGICAL OPERATIONS IN PET ANIMALS**

The Parties to the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, by virtue of the terms of reference laid down in Article 15;

Recognising that these terms of reference imply the monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the development of common and co-ordinated programmes in the field of pet animal welfare;

Anxious to encourage full respect of the provisions of the Convention;

Recalling that Article 10 of the Convention prohibits surgical operations, for the purpose of modifying the appearance of a pet animal or for other non-curative purposes, in particular docking of tails and cropping of ears;

Considering that such operations present a risk for the health and welfare of the animals;

Aware of the problems met by certain countries to implement the provisions of Article 10 of the Convention;

Determined therefore to make strong efforts to abolish such practices;

Recognising that cropping of ears and docking of tails as referred to in Article 10 paragraphs 1.a and b of the Convention are carried out only as customary practices or to fulfil the requirements of certain breeding standards;

Convinced therefore that a revision of these breeding standards would facilitate the achievement of the objectives of the Convention presented in Article 10;

Agreed:

1. to promote awareness particularly among judges, breeders, veterinarians and keepers that mutilation should not be carried out;
2. to encourage breeding associations to amend breeding standards in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the Convention using as a basis the recommendations presented in the Appendix to this Resolution;
3. to consider the possibility of phasing out the exhibition and the selling of animals having been subjected to these operations.

## APPENDIX

The Parties strongly encourage breeding associations to revise breeding standards in the light of Article 10 of the Convention and thereby to contribute to the discontinuation of surgical alterations of pedigree dogs' appearances.

The Parties emphasize that the Convention with its prohibition of the **cropping of ears** has been in force since 1992. In several countries, ear cropping has been banned for much longer.

For good animal welfare practices, breeding standards should only contain requirements with regard to natural ears.

As a first step, natural ears should be favoured, and accepted not only in countries where cropping is forbidden.

The following breeds are concerned (the enumeration is not comprehensive):

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Affenpinscher                  | 12. Cão de Fila de São Miguel |
| 2. American Staffordshire Terrier | 13. Dobermann                 |
| 3. Berger de Beauce               | 14. Dogue Allemand            |
| 4. Berger des Maremmes-Abruzzes   | 15. Dogue Argentin            |
| 5. Berger des Pyrénées            | 16. Belgian Griffon           |
| 6. Boston Terrier                 | 17. Brussels Griffon          |
| 7. Bouvier des Flandres           | 18. Kavkazskaia Ovtcharka     |
| 8. Boxer                          | 19. Neapolitano Mastiff       |
| 9. Berger de Brie (Briard)        | 20. Pinscher                  |
| 10. Small Brabançon               | 21. Schnauzer                 |
| 11. Chien de Berger Catalan       |                               |

The instruction to **dock the tail** should also be removed from breeding standards.

There are countries which have banned general tail docking for a considerable number of years now (Norway since 1987, Sweden since 1988) without serious health problems yet and in the last four years Cyprus, Greece, Luxembourg and Switzerland have decided to introduce a ban on tail docking. Even if it should prove to be true that there are significant problems with

tail damages in dogs used for hunting such as German Pointers, as claimed by dog breeders, still in a huge number of breeds (see list below) there is no necessity to subject dogs to this surgical procedure. According to information from Switzerland and Germany tails are being docked in about one third of puppies that are registered in the studbook. Figures will probably be similar in other countries.

At least, breeding standards should cover both docked and natural tails, whereby the natural tail should be favoured.

The following breeds are concerned (the enumeration is not necessarily comprehensive):

1. Affenpinscher
2. Airedale Terrier
3. American Cocker
4. Australian Silky Terrier
5. Australian Terrier
6. Croatian Sheepdog
7. Berger des Pyrénées
8. Black Russian Terrier
9. Bouledogue Français
10. Bouvier des Ardennes
11. Bouvier des Flandres
12. Boxer
13. Small Brabançon
14. Bracco Italiano
15. Braque d'Auvergne
16. Braque de Burgos
17. Braque de l'Ariège
18. Braque Français (both types)
19. Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
20. Cesky Fousek
21. Catalanian Sheepdog
22. Clumber Spaniel
23. Cão de Fila de São Miguel
24. Dobermann
25. Drotzörü/Rövidszörü Magyar Vizsla
26. Dutch Smoushond
27. English Cocker Spaniel
28. English Springer Spaniel
29. Entlebucher Cattle dog
30. Epagneul de Pont Audemer
31. Field Spaniel
32. Foxterrier (both types)
33. German Pointers (all types)
38. Brussels Griffon
39. Wire-haired Pointing Griffon
40. Irish Terrier
41. Jagdterrier
42. Japanese Terrier
43. Kavkazskaia Ovtcharka
44. Kerry Blue Terrier
45. King Charles Spaniel
46. Lakeland Terrier
47. Neapolitan Mastiff
48. Mudi
49. Norfolk Terrier
50. Norwich Terrier
51. Old English Sheepdog (Bobtail)
52. Österreichischer Kurzhaariger Pinscher
53. Parson Jack Russell Terrier
54. Perdigueiro Português
55. Pinscher (all sizes)
56. Polish Lowland Sheepdog
57. Poodle (all sizes)
58. Poodlepointer
59. Podengo Português
60. Pumi
61. Rottweiler
62. Schipperke
63. Schnauzer (all sizes)
64. Sealyham Terrier
65. Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
66. Spinone Italiano
67. Sredneasioatskaia Ovtcharka
68. Sussex Spaniel
69. Västgötaspets
70. Weimaraner (both types)
71. Welsh Corgi Pembroke
72. Welsh Spaniel
73. Welsh Terrier
74. Yorkshire Terrier



## **RESOLUTION ON THE BREEDING OF PET ANIMALS**

The Parties of the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, by virtue of the terms of reference laid down in Article 15;

Recognising that these terms of reference imply the monitoring of the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the development of common and co-ordinated programmes in the field of pet animal welfare;

Anxious to encourage full respect of the provisions of the Convention;

Recalling that Article 5 of the Convention provides for a selection of pet animal for breeding which takes account of the anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics which are likely to put at risk the health and welfare of either the offspring or the female parent;

Aware that problems are encountered with the implementation of these provisions, in particular with the development of extreme characteristics detrimental to the health and welfare of the animals;

Convinced that these problems are related for a large part to the way breeding standards are formulated and interpreted;

Considering therefore that a revision of these breeding standards is necessary in order to fulfil the requirements of Article 5 of the Convention;

Agreed:

1. to encourage breeding associations, in particular cats and dogs breeding associations:
  - to reconsider breeding standards in order, if appropriate, to amend those which can cause potential welfare problems, in particular in the light of the recommendations presented in the Appendix;
  - to reconsider the standards and to select the animals taking into account not only aesthetic criteria but also behavioural characteristics (for instance with regard to problems of aggressiveness) and abilities;
  - to ensure, by good information and education of breeders and judges, that breeding standards are interpreted in such a way as to counteract the development of extreme characteristics (hypertype) which can cause welfare problems;
  - to raise public awareness to the problems related to some physical and behavioural characteristics of the animals;
2. if these measures are not sufficient, to consider the possibility of prohibiting the breeding and for phasing out the exhibition and the selling of certain types or breeds when characteristics of these animals correspond to harmful defects such as those presented in the Appendix.



## APPENDIX

The Parties are convinced that in the breeding of several breeds or types of pet animals, mammals and birds, insufficient account is taken of anatomical, physiological and behavioural characteristics which are likely to put at risk the animals' health and welfare. However, the Parties considered that problems connected with the breeding of cats and dogs should be addressed in priority.

The Parties strongly encourage cat and dog breeding associations to revise their breeding policies in the light of Article 5 of the Convention taking account in particular of the following guidelines:

### Guidelines for the revision of breeding policies:

- set maximum and minimum values for height or weight of very large or small dogs, respectively, to avoid skeleton and joint disorders (e.g. dysplasia of hip joints or elbows, fractures, luxation of elbow or patella, persistent fontanella) and collapse of trachea;
- set maximum values for the proportion between length and height of short-legged dogs (e.g. Bassethound, Dachshund)<sup>1</sup> to avoid disorders of the vertebral column;
- set limits to the shortness of skull, respectively nose, so that breathing difficulties and blockage of lachrymal ducts are avoided, as well as disposition to birth difficulties (e.g. Persian cats, especially the "extreme type", Bulldogs, Japan Chin, King Charles Spaniel, Pug, Pekin Palacedog);
- prevent the occurrence of:
  - a persistent fontanella (e.g. Chihuahua) to avoid brain damages;
  - abnormal positions of legs (e.g. very steep line of hind legs in Chow Chow, Norwegian Buhund, Swedish Lapphund, Finnish Spitz; bowed legs in Bassethound, Pekin Palacedog, Shi Tzu) to avoid difficulties in movement and joint degeneration;
  - abnormal positions of teeth (e.g. brachygnathia in Boxers, Bulldogs, Persian Cats) to avoid difficulties in feeding and caring for the newborn;
  - abnormal size and form of eyes or eyelids (e.g. ectropium: Bassethound, Bloodhound, St. Bernard; small deep lying eyes with disposition to entropium: Airedale Terrier, Australian Terrier, Bedlington Terrier, Bullterrier, Bloodhound, Chow Chow, English Toy Terrier, Jagdterrier, Newfoundland, Shar Pei; large, protruding eyes: Boston Terrier, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Brussels Griffon, Japan Chin, King Charles Spaniel, Pug, Pekin Palacedog, Shi Tzu, Tibet Terrier) to avoid irritation, inflammation and degeneration as well as prolapse of eyes;

---

<sup>1</sup> The breeds mentioned in brackets are only examples in which these problems may occur.

- very long ears (e.g. English Cocker Spaniel, Basset hound, Bloodhound) to avoid disposition to injuries;
- markedly folded skin (e.g. Basset hound, Bulldog, Bloodhound, Pug, Pekingese, Shar Pei) to avoid eczemas and in the case of furrows around the eyes irritation and inflammation of eyes;
- avoid or, if it is not possible to eliminate severe defects, discontinued breeding of:
  - animals carrying semi-lethal factors (e.g. Entlebucher Cattle dog);
  - animals carrying recessive defect-genes (e.g. homozygous Scottish Fold Cat: short legs, vertebral column and tail defects)
  - hairless dogs and cats (lack of protection against sun and chill, disposition to significant reduction of number of teeth, semi-lethal factor)
  - Manx-cat (movement disorder, disposition to vertebral column defects, difficulties in elimination of urine and faeces, semi-lethal factor)
  - cats carrying "dominant white" (significant disposition to deafness);
  - dogs carrying "Merle factor" (significant disposition to deafness and eye disorders, e.g.: Blue merle Collie, Merle Sheltie, Merle Corgie, Merle Bobtail, Tiger dog, Tigerteckel).