

## KUSA: 'No law prohibits tail docking'



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The Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) issued a statement in November, stating unequivocally that there was no law in South Africa that prohibited tail docking.

This followed on the widely publicised announcement by the SA Veterinary Council in June that because it had declared routine tail docking unethical, veterinarians who performed the procedure could be prosecuted in terms of the Animals Protection Act no 71 of 1962.

The statement, released to KUSA members, reads as follows:

- 1. KUSA has taken note of communications by way of written documents and newsletters from the various parties involved in all aspects of tail docking and, drawing from the available information and without detracting from the various communications, provides the following information for its members.*
- 2. The Veterinary Act established the SAVC and empowered it to make rules regulating the veterinary profession. In terms of Section 30(3) of the Veterinary Act, any rule made by the SAVC will not be of any force and effect until such time as the Minister has approved the rule and it has been published in the government gazette by the Registrar (of the SAVC).*
- 3. A thorough search of the government gazettes since the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 resolution taken by the SAVC to ban tail docking, has revealed no Ministerial notice confirming the approval of this resolution, and the KUSA's legal advice confirms that Ministerial approval is required in terms of Section 30 of the Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professionals Act, 1982. Consequently, we understand that the ban on tail docking, implemented on 1 June 2008, is not capable of being enforced by law.*
- 4. KUSA's point of view is that humane veterinary procedures must remain available to all dog owners at all times for any treatment the owner or breeder deems necessary, and the KUSA supports the right of choice for the individual, be it breeder, dog owner or practising veterinarian.*

[Arguments for and against tail docking](#)