



## *American Rottweiler Club*

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American Veterinary Medical Association  
1931 North Meacham Road, Suite 100  
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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the American Rottweiler Club regarding the five year review of AVMA policies which we have been told would include the policy statement regarding docking and cropping.

Our Club has previously sent to the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2009 a detailed response regarding this policy. However, in light of the upcoming deadline for review we would like to add additional comments regarding our position.


The American Rottweiler Club forbids members from docking after seven (7) days of age without medical necessity. Because some believe that puppies at this age are not fully developed, the procedure should be fairly painless when performed using proper veterinary protocol. Most puppies when docked before this age have no difficulty returning to normal nursing and sleep patterns. Moreover, tails are still docked by many to preserve the historical tradition of the breed.

Should the policy as currently written by the American Veterinary Medical Association be adopted or given effect by the American Kennel Club, the right to make individual choices for our animals concerning medical care would be inhibited. It has always been the position of the American Rottweiler Club regarding animal ownership that an individual's right to make reasonable and responsible choices for their pets should be a decision left between the owners and their chosen veterinarian.

As a result, the American Rottweiler Club would request that the AVMA revise it's policy to make provision for the rights of individual owners to make appropriate medical decisions for their pets in conjunction with veterinary treatment on this issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Shaver  
President of the American Rottweiler Club

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