

## Sample Letter to Lawmakers – Ear Cropping/Tail Docking

The Honorable <name of legislator>  
Address

**RE: Oppose <Bill #>**

Dear <Senator \_\_\_\_\_ OR Representative \_\_\_\_\_ OR Assemblyman or Assemblywoman \_\_\_\_\_>:

I am writing you today because I am concerned about <Bill #>, a bill to ban tail docking and ear cropping of dogs. As a dog owner and a constituent, I would like to express my opposition to government regulation of this standard practice of animal husbandry, which is best left to owners and their veterinarians.

*(Personalize here – tell about yourself as a dog owner, breeder and/or fancier. What breeds have you owned or shown? Have any of your dogs achieved a Championship? Won a prestigious award? How do you as a responsible dog owner contribute to your community? Have you participated in Responsible Dog Ownership Day activities? Presented material on dogs to your local school? If you own a cropped/docked dog, explain the practical reasons how it benefits your breed)*

Ear cropping and tail docking are standard, accepted and safe practices for more than 60 breeds of dogs recognized by the American Kennel Club. Tails are docked when the puppies are generally less than 5 days old and their tails' bones, nervous system and pain sensors are not yet fully developed. As such, they feel little to no pain. These procedures help prevent more painful injuries later in life and better enable these dogs to perform the functions for which they were originally bred.

The criminalization of tail docking and ear cropping embodied in <Bill #> penalizes responsible dog owners for taking appropriate, safe, action to avoid long-term, painful injuries to the dogs they love and care for. Owners, in close consultation with their veterinarians—not the government—should make informed decisions about their pets' health care.

I respectfully urge you to oppose <Bill #>.

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Address