

Tail docking legislation in Australia – State/Territory wording

<p>Australian Capital Territory</p>	<p>ANIMAL WELFARE ACT 1992 – SECT 19A 19A Medical and surgical procedures—veterinary surgeons (1) A veterinary surgeon must not do any of the following for a purpose other than a therapeutic purpose: (a) dock a dog’s tail; (2) A veterinary surgeon must not carry out a medical or surgical procedure on an animal for a cosmetic purpose only.</p>
<p>New South Wales</p>	<p>PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979 - SECT 12 12 Certain procedures not to be performed on animals (1) A person shall not: (a) dock the tail of a horse, bull, ox, bullock, steer, cow, heifer, calf or dog, (2A) A person is not guilty of an offence against this section if the court is satisfied that the procedure comprising the alleged offence was the docking of the tail of a dog, was performed by a veterinary practitioner and was in the interests of the dog’s welfare.</p>
<p>Northern Territory</p>	<p>ANIMAL WELFARE ACT - SECT 9 9. Prohibited procedures (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person must not - (a) dock the tail of an animal; (2) Subject to the <i>Veterinarians Act</i> and the <i>Veterinarians Regulations</i> , a veterinarian may perform a procedure referred to in subsection (1) if he or she is of the opinion that it is reasonable and necessary to do so.</p>
<p>Queensland</p>	<p>ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION ACT 2001 - SECT 24 24 Docking dog's tail (1) A person, other than a veterinary surgeon, must not dock a dog's tail unless the docking is done in a way prescribed under a regulation. (2) A veterinary surgeon must not dock a dog's tail unless-- (a) the surgeon reasonably considers the docking is in the interests of the dog's welfare; or (b) the docking is done in a way prescribed under a regulation.</p>
<p>South Australia</p>	<p>ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS 2000 - REG 6 6—Ill treatment of animals (1) For the purposes of section 13 of the Act, a person ill treats an animal if— (a) except where a veterinary surgeon has certified in writing that any of the following procedures is necessary for the control of disease—the person— (ii) docks the tail of a dog; or (2) However, a person who is a veterinary surgeon may— (b) dock a dog's tail if satisfied the procedure is required for therapeutic purposes;</p>
<p>Tasmania</p>	<p>ANIMAL WELFARE REGULATIONS 2008 - REG 5 5. Prescribed acts constituting cruelty to animals (2) For section 8(2)(k) of the Act, the following are prescribed acts: (b) the docking of all or part of the tail of a dog;</p>

	<p>(c) causing or permitting the docking of all or part of the tail of a dog.</p> <p>(3) Subregulation (2)(b) does not apply to a veterinary surgeon who, using anaesthesia, docks all or part of the tail of a dog for therapeutic purposes.</p> <p>(4) Subregulation (2)(c) does not apply to a person who causes or permits a veterinary surgeon, using anaesthesia, to dock all or part of the tail of a dog for therapeutic purposes.</p>
Victoria	<p>PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (TAIL DOCKING OF DOGS) REGULATIONS 2004 - REG 4</p> <p>7A. Tail docking of dogs</p> <p>(1) A person, other than a veterinary practitioner, must not dock a dog's tail.</p> <p>(2) A veterinary practitioner must not dock a dog's tail unless he or she reasonably considers the docking to be necessary for therapeutic reasons.</p>
Western Australia	<p>ANIMAL WELFARE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2003 - REG 14</p> <p>Under the Western Australia Animal Welfare (General) Regulations 2003 it now states;</p> <p>14. Further offences (s. 94) – tail docking</p> <p>(1) In this regulation tail docking means the removal of one or more of the coccygeal vertebrae, whether by cutting, ablation, elastration or any other means.</p> <p>(2) A person who is not a registered veterinary surgeon shall not carry out tail docking of a dog.</p> <p>(3) A registered veterinary surgeon shall not carry out tail docking of a dog except where the tail docking is clinically indicated for the purpose of curing or alleviating a disease or injury from which the dog suffers.</p>

Prepared October 2009