MEDIA RELEASE

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AVA welcomes end to tail docking in Western Australia

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) welcomes new legislation closing a loophole in the law which continued to allow tail docking in Western Australia.

The amendment to the Animal Welfare Act 2002 now makes it illegal to dock a dog’s tail in Western Australia “unless clinically indicated for the purpose of curing or alleviating a disease or injury from which the dog suffers.”

“The AVA welcomes this move which closes a loophole making it possible for people to transport dogs to WA to have this unnecessary procedure performed,” said President of the AVA, Dr Mark Lawrie.

“There is good evidence for the fact that the tail docking procedure is extremely painful for the animal, with no established benefits,” said Dr Lawrie.

“This is why the AVA has supported a national ban on tail docking and has worked with other animal welfare organisations and the government to tighten laws against it.

“Dogs need their tails to communicate their emotions to humans and to other dogs.

“We welcome this new legislation which closes the loophole and finally outlaws the practice of tail docking in Western Australia,” said Dr Lawrie.

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The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national professional association of veterinary surgeons in Australia. Founded in 1921, the AVA today represents 5000 members working in all areas of animal science, health and welfare.