



The American Rottweiler Club
16005 Pine Creek Way
Magnolia, TX 77358

June 17, 2009

Gail Golab, D.V.M.
Chair, Animal Welfare Division
Animal Welfare Committee
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173

RE: AVMA Revised Ear Cropping and Tail Docking Policy – OPPOSED

Dear Dr. Golab & Esteemed Members of the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee:

The American Rottweiler Club, Inc. (ARC), a nationwide, not-for-profit organization, is the American Kennel Club parent club for the Rottweiler breed in the United States, representing thousands of dog owners concerned with the lawful and humane tail docking procedures across the country.

It is with the greatest respect for the AVMA, and with the greatest concern, that we formally submit our letter of opposition to the recently revised policy position concerning ear cropping and tail docking, including the very guidelines for response which have been set for dissenting groups by the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee.

The AVMA's newly-revised policy represents a significant departure and illustrates a clear shift in the organization from a position of animal welfare to a position of animal rights.

By defining ALL cropping and docking procedures - heretofore standard veterinary medical practice - to be lacking any therapeutic value – and to be merely “cosmetic”, the AVMA now “*encourages the elimination of ear cropping and tail docking*” as part of a “strategic goal for animal welfare”.

It is our sincere hope that, based on the detailed information provided within this letter and attached ARC Special Report, *An In Depth Investigation and Analysis of the Veterinary Medical Literature Concerning Ear Cropping and Tail Docking*, the AVMA will reconsider its position, as well as the serious, long-term implications not only for ownership of our breed, but all dogs, as well as the future of all animals.

The American Rottweiler Club

We are committed to an open and respectful dialogue with the AVMA with regard to this issue.

As a very active breed club in the United States, and an important stakeholder representing thousands of dog owners and ultimately consumers of veterinary medical services, we affirm our commitment to working with the AVMA.

The membership of the American Rottweiler Club, and the Board of Directors, wish to thank the AVMA and the Animal Welfare Committee for its thoughtful consideration of this most important matter, as we both share an unbending commitment to the welfare of all dogs.

The American Rottweiler Club looks forward to your response.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Shaver', written over a large, faint watermark of a Rottweiler's head.

Jeff Shaver
President
American Rottweiler Club, Inc.
p) 713-557-0807
e) jshaver522@yahoo.com
w) www.AmRottClub.org

cc: American Rottweiler Club Board, Peter Piusz, Delegate