

If you want to write a letter of opposition, but you don't know what to say, please consider the following. At the Delegates' Dock Crop meeting, I was asked to list what I would include in a letter. It is important to realize that there is no perfect answer. There is only what each breed thinks is important for them.

My "talking" points are shown below. This is one person's view from one breed.

Peter Piusz
American Rottweiler Club
Delegates' Dock Crop Committee

Talking Points against AVMA Policy:

- Only write about what you know. If you are "docking", write about docking. If "cropping", then write about cropping.
- Do not make up fantasy arguments that do not pass the common sense test or would be rejected by your members for their own use. Historical arguments that utilize settings and conditions rarely encountered in today's world are fun, but in reality, they boil down to the breed image of the dog today (see below).
- The essential nature of a breed is expressed in a few salient characteristics. Docked tail or cropped ears are always among the characteristics that define these breeds. A breed standard offers an official description of the breed, but without the presence of those few characteristics the breed has lost its identify.
- For Rottweilers, the breed is an outdoor-farm dog that has been domesticated and brought into the home. The undocked tail is a large thick appendage, which specializes in clearing tables and beating on you, your children, and your visitors with authority.
- The above example can be crafted to any specific breed, but needs to utilize both the specific tail and the physical traits of the breed. Example, little spindly tails can be characterized as easily broken or injured.
- For docking. A key element needs to be a direct attack on the credibility of AVMA for raising issues about docking puppies at 3 days of age.
 - For a scientific organization, where is the science?
 - Where are the studies that demonstrate the negative impact of docking and cropping?
 - As breeders, our goal is to breed better dogs – form, function, and temperament. If there were negative effects of docking and cropping, the practice would not have continued for centuries.