

EAR CROPPING

"The SPCA is opposed to the physical mutilation and/or alteration of any animal unless it is undertaken for therapeutic veterinary reasons, bona fide conservation or security reasons, where there are no other options available. Any procedures undertaken should be for the benefit of the animal, using methods that do not cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm."

Extract from Code of Conduct and Practice for Veterinarians – S A Veterinary Council:

4.8 SURGICAL ALTERATION TO THE NATURAL STATE OF ANIMALS

Introduction

Policy

Surgery to alter the natural state of an animal is acceptable only if it is necessary for the health and welfare of the animal concerned. Performance of any surgical procedure for other than legitimate medical reasons is unacceptable.

Background

Many surgical procedures are performed on animals for valid health, welfare and management reasons. However, surgical procedures performed on animals which not only do not benefit the health and welfare of the animal but may actually be detrimental, include but are not limited to:

- Ear cropping in dogs;
- Tail docking in dogs.

Some of these procedures have traditionally been carried out by laypersons without due regard to the health and welfare of the animal. All these procedures are painful, and the consequences of the procedure may adversely affect the animal's health and welfare.

To lodge a complaint with the SA Veterinary Council write to:
savc@savc.org.za

