

Dr. Ajay Kumar Gupta
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 27th March 2018

PEOPLE FOR
 THE ETHICAL
 TREATMENT
 OF ANIMALS

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 dog
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 rules)

Dear Dr. Ajay Kumar Gupta,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India to urge you to ensure that cruel, prohibited practices such as tail-docking and ear-cropping aren't practiced on dogs in your jurisdiction/area of work.

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The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing) Rules, 2017, on 23 May 2017 (enclosed) to regulate the breeding and marketing of dogs in the country. Under "General Requirements to be Adhered to by Breeders", Part II of the Second Schedule forbids certain cruel cosmetic veterinary procedures that are commonly practiced, including tail-docking and ear-cropping. Under 6(8), it states the following:

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 JB (Breeding)
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There shall be no tail docking, ear cropping de-barking, de-clawing, branding, dyeing, injecting substances to enhance visual appeal, performing a surgery or procedure to camouflage or hide any defect or infirmity or any other kind of mutilation of any body part of the pup and any change of appearance by artificial means is strictly forbidden.

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To give certain breeds so-called "desirable" traits, some veterinarians, breeders, and others have been performing cruel, disfiguring surgeries that can cause dogs great suffering. The ears of dogs are usually cropped when they're just 8 to 12 weeks old. At this stage in their development, the trauma of the procedure can have a strong psychological impact on young dogs. The process of taping and re-taping puppies' ears to force them to stand erect after they have been cropped is often agonising for them. Puppies are normally just a few days old when their tails are docked – a form of amputation involving the removal of part or all of a dog's tail. Its purpose is solely cosmetic, and the procedure is generally done without pain relief.

It's ridiculous to perform medically needless procedures that cause unnecessary pain and suffering to animals and simply perpetuate the idea that dogs are fashion accessories. Compassionate veterinarians object to the arbitrary removal of body parts that are used for communication, balance, and expression. Dogs "talk" to their human companions and other dogs by using their ears and tails. Both the American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association oppose cosmetic tail-docking and ear-cropping and encourage eliminating these procedures from breed standards. Organisations around the world, including the Council of the UK Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as well as the British government and the Council of Europe, prohibit tail-docking, and

- Affiliates:
- PETA US
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British kennel clubs banned ear-cropping a century ago. As it is in India, ear-cropping is illegal in Australia, New Zealand, many countries in Europe, and most of the provinces in Canada, and tail-docking is prohibited in Australia, Iceland, Israel, South Africa, many European countries, and elsewhere.

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Since tail-docking and ear-cropping are illegal in India, I strongly encourage you to make sure this important law is strictly followed by veterinarians, breeders, and others in your jurisdiction/area of work.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Manilal Valliyate ✓
CEO

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