

# RUFF 'N' STUFF



Feb. '12



## Pet First Aid & CPR Workshop Date: Wed, February 15: 6 – 10 pm

Absolutely Creative Training is an Authorized Provider of the American Red Cross Pet First Aid program. This is a workshop for owners, groomers, trainers, and other pet lovers who are interested in helping animals in an emergency. Skills include: choking, CPR, bleeding & shock for dogs and cats. *For the safety of all, no real pets are allowed in class!*

Cost: \$\$45/person + HST  
Phone: 519-649-4122

Location: 189 Adelaide St. South  
[bettina@absolutelycreative.ca](mailto:bettina@absolutelycreative.ca)

[www.absolutelycreative.ca](http://www.absolutelycreative.ca)

## A Charity event 5

Date: Wed. Feb. 22nd

Time: 6-10pm

Cost: \$ 50.00

Info: [jevespetcare.com](http://jevespetcare.com)

Location: Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant, 717 Richmond St.

Benefiting: Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center

Jeve's Pet Care is a strong supporter of our community, including its natural wildlife. As we continue to serve our community, we are asking you to help us in our journey. Guests will enjoy an evening of Wonderful People, Enlightening Wildlife Presentation by Brian Salt, Delicious Food and Ambiance, Live Soulful Music by MizA, Silent Auction, games, fun & more.

## Why do dogs circle before they lay down?

- ❖ It's nature at work.
- ❖ They've been genetically programmed to trample their sleeping areas in the wild so that the grass is tamped down to make a comfortable resting place.
- ❖ Although your dog may have the finest dog bed you can afford, Fido still feels the urge to circle before lying down, even in the comfort of the modern home.

LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

HELL, NO!



Keep your dog active, go for a walk or the off leash park. Remember a tired dog sleeps better at night & is more at ease when you are gone.

## Tails Docking

Tail docking is cosmetic surgery. These are surgeries that have no impact on the health of the canine, but just end up changing their physical appearance. Look at it any way you want, plain and simply its an amputation. Is it really needed?



People who are for this will argue it is done for the benefit of the dog. Some reasons include avoiding tail damage in worked dogs. Breeds that hunt game go through heavy and thick brush, the tails can easily be torn and start bleeding. It has also been said that the tail can make noise and thus scare off prey. Dogs that hunt underground have their tails docked to a length, which is more practical for that working space. Some people will even say tails are docked so they can't get caught in a doors as they shut. Another reason is for the hygiene of the dog. Longhaired, thick-coated breeds are docked to avoid the hair around the base of the tail becoming matted with feces or burrs. Even with constant grooming and washing, it can be hard to keep the dog clean. The other main reason I hear is it's the breed standard. Some guarding breeds, like Dobermans, are thought to look more intimidating with short tails.

A dog's tail is used to communicate with other dogs. A tail between the legs indicates fear, while a loose, wagging tail indicates friendliness. Another drawback in dock tailed dogs is the fact that they lack the important balancing function of the tail. Tails also play an important role during swimming.

Even though tail-docking may not hurt your dog in the long run, what about the pain of removing the tail? Dogs are tail-docked at a very young age (only a couple of days old) for two reasons: so they will grow up accustomed to having a short tail, and so that the procedure will cause less pain. A dog's tail is made up of many little bones lined up end-to-end. Puppies' bones are not well-formed, so you can remove part of the tail without actually cutting through the bones in the tail. Even though you don't have to cut through bone (which would be very painful), in order to remove the tail, you have to cut through skin, muscles, blood vessels, and some nerves. That is why some people wonder: how painful is this procedure for the puppy?

There are two methods of docking. The majority of breeders used the technique known as "banding", in which a ligature, normally an orthodontic band, was placed over the end of the puppies tail at 24-96 hours old. This effectively cuts off the blood supply to the end of the tail, which comes away within 3 days. Most people believe that puppies don't feel any pain during this but some recent studies have revealed that they do. A puppy as may living creature has a nervous system so it is able to properly perceive pain. While a puppy may not necessarily squeal or vocalize from pain during a tail dock there are other "tell tale signs' that can suggest pain.

When done by a veterinarian your pet is placed on his back under a general anesthesia. An incision is made about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1 inch from the base of the tail. The distance from the tail base will depend on the standard for the particular breed. The incision extends through the skin and continues between two vertebrae in older dogs or through cartilage in very young puppies. At this point, the majority of the tail has been removed. The skin is then sutured closed over the remaining vertebra and tail tissue. Sutures may be absorbable or may need to be removed 5 to 7 days later. When the procedure is performed in older dogs, a temporary bandage is placed over the surgery site, and the bandage is removed after 2 to 3 days. Luckily, more and more veterinarians are refusing this practice and so are some countries that have started to ban it.

Tail docking should be only justified if backed up by medical reasons. Having a puppy undergo a tail docking procedure for just cosmetic reasons is unacceptable. Dogs were made with tails and dogs should have tails.