



VETERINARY REPORT

To whom it may concern

On the 19th of December 2024, I was presented with three dogs confiscated from 567 Koornhof Street Nyanga by SPCA Inspector Jeffrey. These animals consisted of an adult female and her two puppies.

ANIMAL DETAILS

1.

SPCA Admission number: A53862

Species: Canine

Sex: Female,intact

Breed: Boerboel X

Age: Adult (exact age unknown)

Description: Tan with black muzzle

Weight:34.5Kg

2.

SPCA Admission number: A53863

Species: Canine

Sex: Female

Age: Approximately 8 weeks old

Description: Tan

Weight: 3kg

3.

SPCA Admission number: A53864

Species: Canine

Sex: Female, intact

Age: Approximately 8 weeks

Description: Tan

Weight: 3kg

EXAMINATION FINDINGS

Description –

On day of examination, all dogs were bright alert and responsive, they all had a calm and friendly nature I was able to assess them without restraint.

Body condition of Adult female was 3 out of 9 on the Nestle Purina Body Condition system.

Body condition of puppies were 4 out of 9 on the Nestle Purina Body Condition system

Blood smears and clinical exam showed no major abnormalities. Animals are clinically healthy.

The adult dog showed some mucoid vaginal discharge an impression smear revealed a postpartum discharge, this is normal.
All three dogs presented with docked tails.

Radiographs revealed the following:

1.
SPCA Admission number: A53862
Tail Amputated between Caudal vertebra 6 and 7
2.
SPCA Admission number: A53863
Tail amputated between Caudal vertebra 7 and 8
3.
SPCA Admission number: A53864
Tail amputated between Caudal vertebra 7 and 8

Duration of the condition – Acute

Cause of the condition:
Tails were severed.

Prognosis – Good as tail stumps have healed

Recommendation –
I advise that the adult female should be sterilised,
In our care all animals were treated for internal parasites, given tick and flea treatment as well as vaccinated.

Tail docking

Tail docking is the act of amputating the distal part of the tail, whether it is by severing with a knife, scissor or scalpel blade, or constricting the tail with a rubber band, resulting in consequent necrosis of the tail and its falling off. The cut goes through the joint passing through extremely sensitive nerves , cartilage and bone. As of June 1st, 2008, the South African

Veterinary council (SAVC) does not condone routine docking of tails by a Veterinarian. Veterinarians are only allowed to amputate tails for medical reasons such as trauma or cancer.

Amputation of the tail results in acute pain to the animal, even when it is done under anaesthesia There is a risk of necrosis of the tail, infection, bleeding, and can also result in death of the animal. Tail docking can cause chronic pain and neuromas. There are also chronic health problems associated, such as atrophy and degeneration of the pelvic muscles, which increases the risk of urinary incontinence and perineal hernias. (PC Bennet, 2003).

Dogs use their tails as a form of communication, tail behaviour is an integral part in canine communication. Tail activity and position are used as a signal to display positive and negative emotions, moods and intentions. (Mellor, 2018) They are able to express when they are

happy, scared or anxious. Tails are also used as a warning sign and indicator before a dog bites or attacks.

When the tail is docked, it makes it more difficult for a people and other dogs to assess how a dog is likely to react in a certain situation and can lead to an increase in dogs' fights or dog bites to people.

Routine tail docking is an unnecessary procedure often resulting in the loss of a healthy tail, by definition this is considered maiming of the animal. Maiming an animal is a violation of Section 2(1)(a) of the Animal Protections Act number 71 of 1962 which states ."

"Any person who:- overloads, overdrives, overrides, ill-treats, neglects, infuriates, tortures or maims or cruelly beats, kicks, goads or terrifies any animal."

Routine tail docking does not provide any benefit to puppies, it is primarily a cosmetic procedure and should not be performed.

COMMENTS

The site where the tails were severed of the puppies have completely healed ,they are approximately 8weeks old currently, it is evident that they were only a few weeks old when their tails were cut off. These animals have undergone a cruel unnecessary procedure that has caused them to suffer.

Yours sincerely

Dr D Narotam (BVSc)
Veterinarian

Date compiled: 07 January 2025