

FINED FOR DOCKING PUPPIES TAILS

Despite tail docking being banned for over two years there are still some people who think it is 'normal' for some breeds of dogs to have docked tails.

RSPCA Manager Inspectorate services Greg Boland said, "It is an offence to dock the tail of a dog. Tail docking may only be carried out by a qualified veterinary practitioner, but only for therapeutic reasons. In Victoria, both the owner of the puppy or even a veterinarian can be prosecuted if a puppy's tail is docked for any other reason."

A Bairnsdale man was found guilty of one charge under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and one charge under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations in Bairnsdale Court on August 9. He was fined \$500 without conviction and ordered to pay \$61 costs.

RSPCA Inspector Darren Hickey laid the charges, which involved the docking of tails of Rottweiler cross puppies. Inspector Hickey investigated a complaint after a person bought one of the pups.

Inspector Hickey interviewed the defendant who made admissions to docking the tails of a litter of ten puppies at the age of two to three weeks. The defendant said he used surgical gloves, bought razor blades and used spray on Dettol.

The defendant pleaded guilty to the docking of the puppies' tails

In another recent case, a Laverton woman decided to dock the tails of half of her litter of crossbred puppies to make them look more like Rottweilers. The woman stated she was not aware it was illegal.

She pleaded guilty to the charge of tail docking and was placed on a 12-month good behaviour bond.

Tail docking of dogs was banned in 2004 because it is an unnecessary and cruel practice.

If anyone is aware of people tail docking dogs, RSPCA Victoria encourages them to report it to the RSPCA on [03] 9224 2222.

**The RSPCA has photographs available of the puppies with their tails docked
that can be downloaded for media reproduction.**

August 11 2006

**For further information contact Ray Lord, RSPCA Media Officer on (03) 9224 2237
or Mobile 0425 787 243**