



**Nancy Eilks
ABdFC President
N5689 County Road S
Lake Mills, WI 5551-9554**

September 25, 2012

Dr. Douglas Aspros, President
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL. 60173-4360

RE: AVMA Policy on Ear Cropping and Tail Docking

Dear Dr. Aspros,

During this time of AVMA review of current policies, I am writing on behalf of the American Bouvier des Flandres Club, a club of over 500 members. I am writing to express our deep concern and objection to the current AVMA policy on Ear Cropping and Tail Docking. It is our opinion that the original decision by the AVMA to oppose these procedures was based upon insufficient scientific data and influenced by a political agenda.

Every purebred dog was developed to perform a particular service to mankind. The phenotype of each breed has been passed down through centuries. As breeders today, we strive to maintain the uniqueness of our chosen breed which, for our breed as many others, often includes ear cropping and tail docking. Each AKC Parent Club maintains their own breed standard to incorporate and preserve the characteristics that differentiate each breed from one another. Without these traditional breed standards we would devolve into generic dogs losing the very essence of our breeds.

When performed at the appropriate age and by a licensed Veterinarian, these procedures are generally safe and humane. It is our experience that ear cropping and tail docking do not pose any health risks as the pups mature.

The ABdFC, affirms that it is the right of the individual dog owners to crop/dock their dogs in accordance with our breed standard. Just as humans have a special bond with their dogs, breeders have a special relationship with their Veterinarians and we ask that the AVMA encourage this by not putting its member Veterinarians who perform these procedures at odds with the very organization that promotes their profession.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to repeal the AVMA's position on ear cropping and tail docking.

Sincerely,

Nancy Eilks