

Why We Dock

BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND VET GUIDANCE



COMFORT

That's not typically what most think of when you consider tail docking, but I want to reference the picture above that is from one of OUR 2018 litters. That particular litter had 4 puppies with kinked tails. Had we not docked, this would be painful for the pup as it grew older and even more so prone to catching it on items causing even further pain.

PREVENTION

Australian Shepherds and Poodles are known for being "hard wagers" or having "happy tail syndrome." What this means in laymen terms is that they are known for wagging their tails so hard that they injure themselves. Whether is on the corner of a post, a wall, a metal divider in your car, or whatever else happens to be there.



Tail Injuries

Studies show it is much harder, and even detrimental, for a dog to grow up with a tail, learn to depend, and then have an injury that requires confinement or amputation.

Happy Tail Syndrome

This is a tail from a dog with "Happy Tail Syndrome". The healing process has started but you can see the bone exposed from the dog simply being a hard wagger.



Can't Do This With A Docked Tail!

In all seriousness though, by having a docked tail you reduce the risk of injury of any kind.

WHEN DO WE DOCK?

To have the smallest effect on each pup physically and in any other way we dock at birth. This is why when we are asked, "Can you not dock my dog's tail" the answer is "Sorry no". Docking at any other time could make it harder on the pup and as I have sought counseling and training on docking, this makes it the easiest and best option for our pups.