



NEWS & EVENTS

DECLAWING, EAR CROPPING, TAIL DOCKING AND MORE NOW BANNED IN ALBERTA

February 25, 2019

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) commends Alberta veterinarians for taking a monumental step toward the improvement of animal welfare in Alberta.

On Sunday, February 24, 2019, members of the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (ABVMA) met and voted in favour of two resolutions, the first obligating veterinarians and veterinary technologists to report cases of animal abuse and neglect, and take action to address animals in distress and the second resolution recommends a ban on all unnecessary medical/surgical procedures. This includes the following procedures: ear cropping, tail docking, tail nicking, tail blocking, partial digit amputation (declawing or onychectomy), cosmetic dentistry, tattooing that is not for the purpose of registration and identification, tendonectomy, front dewclaw removal, body piercing, and devocalization.

The CVMA's [Position Statements](#) on Partial Digital Amputation (Onychectomy or Declawing) of the Domestic Felid, Devocalization of Dogs and Cosmetic Alteration oppose these elective and non-therapeutic medical/surgical procedures.

CVMA positions are intended to provide a "forward-thinking" viewpoint on issues based on what is happening not just in Canadian society and the veterinary profession, but internationally. The positions are not intended to regulate the profession of veterinary medicine; however, it is recognized that provincial regulatory bodies may consider them when they update or amend veterinary bylaws.

Alberta is now the fifth Canadian province to ban the declawing of cats, the first was Nova Scotia, followed by British Columbia and then Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island. Partial Digital Amputation (declawing) is also banned in Australia, New Zealand, Israel, Brazil, the United Kingdom, parts of Europe and some cities in California.

The Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec (OMVQ) has previously banned all cosmetic surgery, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador have provincial legislation against tail docking, ear cropping, and most cosmetic surgeries and the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association (NBVMA), the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association (NSVMA) and the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia (CVBC) have bans on their veterinarians performing tail docking, ear cropping, and most cosmetic surgeries. The

Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) and the Manitoba Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) currently have ear cropping bans.

“This is an important step forward for our profession and for animal welfare in this province,” says Dr. Darrell Dalton, Registrar of the ABVMA. “I’m grateful for our members who have demonstrated such a profound commitment to their role as guardians of animal welfare in our province by voting in favour of these resolutions.”

Members approving these resolutions will allow the ABVMA to propose amendments to the Veterinary Profession Act General Regulation.

[BACK TO NEWS & EVENTS LISTING](#)

© Copyright 2019 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association | [Disclaimer/Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)