

Info shared by Pitbull SA.

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Ear cropping (Otoplasty) in dogs.

Every coin have 2 sides.

Dogs needs their ears and tails to communicate, both with one another and us humans.

Altering their appearance is for our benefit only and can often cost them dearly if the operation (and that's what this is) is not professionally done.

Manjaro's believe the APBT dog should be allowed to keep both their ears and tails unless there is a medical indication for surgery (which is very rare!).

Manjaro's therefore request your puppy to be intact.

Opinion.

Because by tradition we came to expect a Pitbull to have cropped ears, the same as we expect of the Fox terrier and Boerboel.

Looking at trimming of the pinna (earflap).

The main purpose of ear cropping is to alter the shape of the earflap to make the flap stand erect ... this might be **for several of legitimate and practical reasons.**

As a cosmetic "enhancement," for the sake of "tradition" or to make a dog look intimidating.

Tragically, as much as people love their dogs and view them as members of the family and the family of the Pitbull breed and their best friends, at the same time, many also see them as material belongings that can be bought, sold, traded, ignored, mistreated, "surgically enhanced" or abandoned.

Until that perspective changes among the general public, and certainly among breeders and kennel clubs, humans and Pit Bull owners will continue to breed and surgically alter dogs **for appearance**, rather than preserving and protecting their natural genetic design and - also for cosmetic purposes in certain breeds of dogs – like the Pit Bull and other.

This is therefore worth mentioning - because it might be just for some working dog breeds - like the APBT - born with undesired floppy ears and cropping became a commonly performed procedure - but not limited to American Pitbull terriers - also for other terriers breeds, Schnauzers, Boxers, Great Danes, Doberman Pinschers, and Boston Terriers, Bull dogs, Ban dogs and some other game **performing breeds.**

All breeds of domesticated dogs (created by the folly of man) that resulted with floppy ears **because of human genetic manipulation.**

Therefore if it's still your intention to have this procedure performed, it is advised discussing the procedure, its legality, risks, and cost with your veterinarian.

Veterinary Medical Associations lists risks with regard to ear cropping;
General anesthesia.

Cropping should always be carried out under full anesthesia, which itself might have associated risks.

Postoperative care.

Dogs will experience some discomfort during healing, stretching, re-taping and bandaging, and other manipulations after surgery.

“Some” (just as all post-surgery) will need their ears bandaged or taped upright for a prescribed time, and they may be isolated from other dogs during this period - not that it matter.

Looking at potential complications.

As with any incision, cropped ears **may become infected**.

Cropped ears **may also fail to stand** or have a distorted shape or position potentially leading to subsequent operations.

Occasionally, dogs are born with **undesired floppy ears** and sometimes with **deformed ears** - ears that normally should stand erect **but do not**. German Shepard's ears might stand erect.

If the **ears fail to become erect**, then splinting of the earflap may help cartilage become erect.

As a last result, surgery to reposition segments of the cartilage **may be beneficial in some dogs** – for specific needed purposes.

The justification for erect self-supported ears.

The main purpose of ear cropping then will be to alter the shape of the flopping earflap to make the flap **stand erect** – again - this also **might be** for profound needed reasons For the **working dog as predator**. Humans are vain creatures - and **want to be competitive** - then ear cropping for dogs done for the modern non-working domesticated dogs today – will then be propelled only and mostly for only **cosmetically or personal** reasons – for the looks associate by man's perception and specific breeds perception.

If you desire to have this procedure performed, it is advice discussing the procedure, its legality, risks, and cost involved with your veterinarian.

Some dog breeds born with floppy ears, and ears that fail to become erect, then the splinting of the earflap **may help cartilage become erect** and surgery to reposition segments of the cartilage will become the solution.

The procedure is performed under general anesthesia.

A dog's ears have lots of nerve endings, and without doubt painful if **backyard cropping is performed and therefore is inhumane and with reason classed as illegal and against the law.**

Cropping involves the surgical removal of around two-thirds of the pinna, or floppy part of both ears.

The remaining tissue is then tightly taped into an upright position.

Pain medication (as for any after surgery) may or may or may not be given after a cropping procedure.

Over the next several weeks or months, the altered ears will be taped and re-taped in an effort to get them to stand up straight.

This process **may or may not yield the intended result.**

Many cropped puppies, even after weeks or months of taping, still have floppy ears.

Cropping and especially backyard cropping and botched jobs can also disfigure the ears, leaving them scarred or bent or totally deformed – a matter of concern and frowned upon and in some circles declared illegal and mostly banned and outlawed.

Ear Cropping is considered maiming



Maiming is an offence in terms
of the Animals Protection Act
No. 71 of 1962

National Council
of SPCAs



www.nspca.co.za

But here is the truth about the reason and justification about ear cropping.

1. An erect ear helps to prevent bacterial, yeast, & fungal infections
 2. Will improve hearing as well as detecting the direction of sounds.
- Nearly all wild land mammals, and certainly every species of wild canines and felines **have erect ears just like Mother Nature intended.**

Ear cropping is therefore not done for **only** "just cosmetic reasons."
(A needed sought after alteration for the "real" working dog).

Even if some laws and by laws outlawed **all ear cropping** with some working dogs – man's perception either way.

Looking at natural - erect ears **are more natural ears than floppy ears.**

The reason all wild canines and felines have erect ears is simply because **it is superior in health and function** - (hunting or burrowing).

Medically - it is also reasoned that cropping reduces the incidence of ear infections because it provides increased airflow to the ear canal and **enhance hearing** for the predator type dogs.

The closest thing I can think of to a floppy ear on a land mammal is an elephant, but even an elephant's ear is not truly floppy as it is **self-supportive** while it sways forward and rearward.

Point here being; **even the elephant's huge ear doesn't droop over the ear canal.**

Fact > Wild predator - hunting carnivore's animals with erect ears only have floppy ears when they are infants.

The reason the ear on so many **domestic dogs is floppy is simply because dog breeders of dog breeds have selected the exaggerated "neoteny like phenotype".**

This practice with domesticated dog species as a breed feature has resulted in the production of individuals that display "youth like features" even after they have matured.

When the floppy ears of domesticated canines then are properly cropped (during puppy-hood and with a functional amount of erect length), ear cropping **simply become a corrective needed procedure that reverses the downfalls of breeds like the APBT's domestication and breeding practices that resulted in the inferior floppy ear in the first place.**

Almost all problems with the dog's floppy ears can be eliminated **with early professional ear cropping.**

It influence temperament in young pups when they should be imprinting on positive relationships and behaviors - will lead to infections and mites.

Ideally puppies with thick heavy ears should be cropped earlier (between 6-9 weeks of age) or cropped shorter than average to avoid issues or complications with standing erect on their own.

Puppies with thinner lighter ears can be cropped from 7-14 weeks of age **without any issues.**

When dogs with thin skinned light weight ears are cropped between 6-8 weeks of age, they can typically be cropped rather long and still stand up.

The mid-length crop with APBT is preferred, which is long enough **to function like the wild (natural) ear or wild wolves and wild dogs ... an ear that is able to funnel sounds into the ear canal and turn like a satellite to determine direction of direct sounds.**

The mid-length crop is short enough that the ear generally stands in less than a week and certainly by the time the stitches are removed 7-10 days later.

Worthwhile for these reasons the shorter ear crops are prefer and done when pups are older than 9 weeks of age or have thick heavy ears.

If you think the funnel like satellite shape of the **ear does not help hearing or locating sounds, ask yourself one simple question ...**

why were early hearing aids simply a dish that directed sound into the ear? And as stated earlier, ventilation is also important in terms of health.

It was said;



Kingsley Nthebolang.

Why do people tend to scoop out what makes them sleep at night and try hard to have the world conform to their own thinking?

When we argue about "the cruelty on animals as a result of ear cropping or tail docking with APBT (dogs)," **why don't we bring up all other factors into play?**

- dehorning animals
- live castration
- tail docking
- putting animals down
- slaughtering animals for their products
- riding animals (horse racing for example)
- animal branding etc..

Let's not limit it to that.

We got human beings ... circumcise their boy children – ear hole for ear rings ... nipple/clitoris/belly/nose/tongue/lip/eye rings etc. ... nose jobs face lifts, breast implants/ tummy tucks/ liposuction etc., religious face markings, tattoos removing of a finger circumcision etc.

Then humans - they cut down trees (trees are living things)

Activists will always support ***one or other cause*** and do away with everything else that they have no interest in – why give them ear be controlled by them?

Know what you talking about when you talk about animal cruelty, **what exactly are you making reference to?**

Is it cruelty just because it isn't your cup of tea or is there's actually **some solid proof to call it animal cruelty?**

Is it not time for people (activists) to instill fruitful education into communities, something that can resonate with all of us.

Not to get all worked up and talk simply because they hate some practice – (ear cropping in dogs).

It's the same story with individual activists along with their animal welfare organizations ... everyone have a missing link in classifying certain practices **as cruelty**.