

# ***Info shared by Pitbull SA.***

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## ***Justification for partial tail docking.***

Every coin have 2 sides.

In the APBT world today ear cropping – especially backyard jobs became a matter of concern and mostly outlawed – with this all APBT doggers will agree.

Then again what define backyard? – Farmers (backyard?) doing tail docking, removing testicles?

Villagers (backyard?) removing the "worm" under the tongue of their dogs?

Then looking at the truth about the reason and justification about ear cropping or tail docking.

### **The mid-length tail.**

Before buying too much into the philosophy that the tail is "necessary for balance ... for working for food where the tail will be in the way of bunch thorns etc.

Let's remember the Bobcat and Lynx both are born with short to mid-length tails and yet they are some of the most acrobatic cats on the planet.

Not only are these cats' apex predators and fighters, but let's also consider they are fighters that hunt in bush & trees ... and need to balance on limbs as they climb or jump through the forest.

So, why do they have short tails you may ask? and the answer is they are not high speed coursers that hunt in the open grass land.

Being they hunt in the trees, they are designed for close quarter combat, not high speed direction changes during the hunt.

The tail's "counter-balance" abilities are more like rudder than a balancing pole.

Now, for smaller dogs, a full length tail is less problematic, but for large dogs it can be a problem (for breeds developed by the folly of man some breeds it is).

The APBT is a gladiator breed, and should not be confused with a sight and hunt hound chasing an agile rabbit at 35-40 mph.

**Fact is the APBT are close quarter gladiators.**

Even if used as catch dogs to catch wild boar they are generally speaking not high speed coursing hounds and then use to catch wild hogs or other dangerous game that fights back.

Fact the long tail is much more prone to injury, especially where people and doors grab tails, and where walls are not "just around the corner,"

Fact but actually create every corner found in a domesticated world.

It happens - a dog's tail have the hide ripped off when it was ran over by a car... lost the tail in close quarters battle and it is easy to imagine criminals working as a team using the dog's natural long tail against them.

Sure you seen this - large dogs with long tails wag them so much that they damage the tip and sling blood daily as the wagging tail has difficulty healing when it is continuing to beat against the walls or other objects in our homes.

Then also true – sure you seen this - some dogs inclined to have a mania to chase that tail all day long.

Animals in the wild are not bound by such close barriers.

Finally, a long tail also knocks over drinks and candles, and hits children in the eyes ... all of which can be avoided when the tail is docked or partially docked.

**So, now one might ask, why not a complete docking of the tail?**

For human to dog socials you need to see the dog communicate with its tail.

It is an expression of mood and/or energy.

It can also protect the vital organs of the anus (then do not have to be a mile long) and the reproductive tract when in combat, such as hunting.

The tail become a fly swatter and cover the anus or female genitals – dogs does not wear underpants.

Therefore for these reasons the mid-length tail dock is worth looking at.

It provides the benefits of a full tail without the draw backs of the full length tail ... and also provides the few benefits the long tail has in a domestic society.

Now, all that said, it does not seem wise to dock the tail on an adult APBT - but it might be.

The nervous system becomes more developed as pups age and adult dogs have learned not only learned movements of their tail, but also develop more nerve endings. (But at a young age this problem will not be a problem).

For this reason then best that tails should be docked around 5-7 days, and certainly before the puppies are 10 days old – what you don't have you never miss.

Sometimes it takes a day or two after delivery for a mother to produce sufficient milk for the litter.

As a result, the puppies often lose weight the first couple of days.

For this reason, I do not dock tails before 5 days of age because I want to make sure all the pups are in good condition and are gaining weight before their tails are docked.