

**RESOLUTION #12—2023
Regular Annual Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

REVISED POLICY ON DOCKING OF LAMBS' TAILS

RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the revised policy on Docking of Lambs' Tails as noted below (additions are underlined, deletions are ~~struck through~~).

Docking of Lambs' Tails

Lambs' tails may be docked for cleanliness and to minimize fly strike. ~~AVMA opposes, but cosmetic,~~ excessively short tail docking, which is unacceptable for sheep welfare due to can lead to an increased incidence of rectal prolapse and skin cancer is unacceptable for the welfare of the lamb. ~~We~~The AVMA recommends that lambs' tails be docked at the level of the distal end of the caudal tail fold and at the earliest age practicable. Because tail docking causes pain and ~~distress/discomfort~~, the AVMA recommends the use of procedures and practices that reduce or eliminate these effects, including the use of approved or Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA)-permissible clinically effective medications ~~whenever possible~~.

Statement about the Resolution

After review of the policy by the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), it was determined that the proposed revisions strengthen AVMA's opposition to excessively short tail docking and add the potential complication of skin cancer from excessively short tail docking. The revisions also clarify and emphasize that pain control should always be used for this procedure.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #2	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X	X	X (amended as noted below*)	X (amended as noted below*)
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)

***Revised Policy on Docking of Lambs' Tails**

- Insert the words "If performed," before the word "The" in the third sentence.