

## Ear cropping statement

As a practice we feel we need to make a statement about ear cropping of dogs. We must not allow this horrendous practice to become normal in the UK, where we pride ourselves on having the highest animal welfare standards.

Ear cropping of dogs is a mutilation that is a criminal offence in this country. It is performed with the intention of giving dogs a more aggressive appearance and is of no benefit at all to the animal. It is, in fact a painful procedure, and very concerning with regards to animal welfare.

It would appear to be performed for reasons of fashion and is an appalling example of shallow vanity to harm an animal just for appearances.

Up until recent years we would never see dogs that had been mutilated in this way. In the past few years, we have seen a small number of these dogs imported as rescues from Europe where the procedure is not banned. In the last 12-18 months we have seen a marked increase in the number of dogs seen with this mutilation.

It unfortunately appears that it has become fashionable to own dogs mutilated in this way, and we are seeing people intentionally buying dogs from abroad that have had their ears cropped, or even taking dogs abroad to get their ears cropped. Alarmingly there is now evidence that this procedure is being carried out illegally in this country, by people who will not be using anaesthesia or pain relief.

We want you to know that if we believe that someone has actively sourced a puppy or dog that has been mutilated in this way, then we reserve the right to refuse to register that animal. We understand that some people have, with the best of intentions, taken on rescue animals that have been imported with ears already cropped. We would like to discourage this, as it makes it more difficult to determine when criminal activity has taken place.

It must become socially unacceptable to see this cruelty, and we must work towards putting an end to this practice and having it outlawed everywhere.

Relative link to BVA:

<https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/blog-article/why-an-alarming-new-trend-has-vets-saying-cut-the-crop/>

Please note, this blog contains graphic images some may find upsetting.