

Weimaraner Club of America Position Statement: Tail Docking and Declaw Removal

The Weimaraner Club of America (“WCA”) supports tail docking and dewclaw removal in neonates, which, when properly performed by a skilled practitioner, produces long-term benefits to the health of the individual and maintains the integrity of the breed.

The Weimaraner is a versatile hunting breed developed to hunt, retrieve and track prey in variable cover. Tail docking and dewclaw removal were historically performed to prevent injury while allowing the dog to safely work as a versatile hunter. Because the WCA supports Weimaraner versatility, these procedures remain as relevant and beneficial today as in the past. While tail docking and dewclaw removal in a neonate may appear to some to be of speculative utility, failure to use this non-invasive procedure can result in repeated injury to and possible amputation of tails and dewclaws in adults.

The WCA recognizes that decisions about veterinary care and procedures are private matters which must remain within the purview of the dog’s owner(s) and veterinarian(s). It is the responsibility and ethical mandate of all WCA members to ensure that their dogs receive appropriate and timely veterinary care when electing these procedures.

The WCA agrees with the American Kennel Club (“AKC”) and the National Animal Interest Alliance (“NAIA”) in supporting the rights of breeders and veterinarians to perform tail docking and dewclaw removal while opposing any and all attempts to ban this practice.

The WCA shall remain vigilant in preserving, protecting and promoting the Weimaraner breed and supporting the rights of our members.