All puppies are born with tails, but in some breeds the tails are cut off — or docked — when the pups are a few days old. In some breeds parts of the ears are cut off — or cropped — generally between 9 and 12 weeks. These procedures are painful and of no medical benefit to the dog (i.e., cosmetic surgery), and are illegal in many countries (e.g., Scandinavia, many European countries, Australia, and New Zealand). Tail amputation may be performed if needed for medical treatment, such as injury.

Every dog should have a tail to tell … and the ears to hear one!

The dogs on this poster have not had their ears and/or tails altered.

North America

Breeds traditionally seen with cropped ears
- Boston terrier
- Boxer
- Doberman, Miniature, and German pinscher
- Great Dane
- Schnauzer (all sizes)
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Manchester terrier
- American Staffordshire terrier
- Brussels griffon

Some of the breeds traditionally seen with docked tails*
- Boxer
- Doberman, Miniature, and German pinscher
- Poodle (all sizes)
- Rottweiler
- Schnauzer (all sizes)
- Bouvier des Flandres
- Pembroke Welsh corgi
- Schipperke
- Some herding breeds (e.g., Old English sheepdog, Australian shepherd)
- Some sporting breeds (e.g., most spaniels, some pointers)
- Some terriers (e.g., Yorkshire, Jack Russell/Parson Russell, Norwich, Norfolk)

*Check with your national kennel club to find a specific breed.