

**RESOLUTION #13—2023  
Regular Annual Session**

Submitted by  
Board of Directors

**REVISED POLICY ON TAIL DOCKING OF CATTLE**

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

**Tail Docking of Cattle**

The AVMA opposes routine tail docking of cattle. Current scientific literature indicates that routine tail docking provides no benefit to the animal, and that tail docking may cause chronic pain and can lead to distress during fly seasons. Tails may be amputated on an individual basis when medically necessary by or under the guidance of a licensed veterinarian using procedures and practices that reduce or eliminate pain and distress, including the use of approved or Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA)-permissible clinically effective medications.

**Statement about the Resolution**

The Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) reviewed the policy on Tail Docking of Cattle. The proposed revisions emphasize the fact that while fly issues from tail docking could potentially be managed, chronic pain from tail docking cannot be reasonably managed. Language was also added to clarify that pain control should be used if tail docking is to occur.

**Financial Impact: None**

	<b>Board of Directors</b>	<b>House Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Reference Committee #2</b>	<b>House of Delegates</b>
<b>Recommend Approval</b>	X	X	X	X
<b>Recommend Disapproval</b>				
<b>Recommend Referral to...</b>				
<b>No Recommendation</b>				
<b>Recommend Postpone Indefinitely</b>				
(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)				