



Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association

The Council of the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association has amended the Code of Ethics after consultation with the Membership, both directly and through a survey, along with consideration of public input, to include the following Section relating to Cosmetic Surgery.

“No member of the Nova Scotia Veterinary Medical Association shall perform cosmetic surgery on an animal for the purpose of having the animal’s appearance conform to a breed standard or tradition. Cosmetic surgery is defined as non-therapeutic surgical procedures, which alter the appearance of an animal for purely cosmetic purposes. Surgeries due to injury or for reasons of animal health are not considered to be cosmetic surgery.”

Examples of cosmetic procedures include:

- tail docking in the equine species
- tail docking in the bovine species
- tail docking in the canine species
- tail docks in newborn puppies
- dewclaw removal in newborn puppies
- tail alteration (nicking / setting) in the equine species
- ear cropping
- onychectomy (de-claw) in species other than the domestic cat

This legislative amendment will come into effect on April 1, 2010 with a 6 month implementation period.

Therefore, members will be given until October 1, 2010 to implement the education period of the Legislation, after which time the Legislative amendment will be deemed to be enforceable.