



Animal welfare information sheet

Qs and As concerning dogs with short tails or clipped ears

Anyone wishing to import a dog with a short tail or clipped ears into Switzerland must first obtain confirmation from the FSVO that the dog has not been docked or cropped. Ear cropping involves altering the shape of the ears and has been prohibited since 1 July 1981. Tail docking means shortening the tail by removing tail vertebrae and surrounding soft tissue, and has been prohibited since 1 July 1997. The importing of cropped and/or docked dogs is also prohibited.

1. Which documents should be submitted for the assessment of congenital stumpy tail or amputation of the tail or ear?

Anyone wishing to import a dog with a congenitally short tail or an amputated tail or ear should first contact the Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO (info@blv.admin.ch or BLV, Postfach, 3003 Bern), which will assess whether the animal concerned is permitted to enter Switzerland.

You must be able to document plausibly that the dog has not been cropped or docked. For the purposes of the assessment, the following documents should be submitted to the FSVO at least three weeks before the dog's planned entry into Switzerland (please do not submit any non-required information or videos):

Documents required in every case:

- A photograph of the dog showing the animal from head to tail or, in the absence of a tail, to the base of the tail.
- A **copy of the EU pet passport** (or comparable passport if the dog is from outside the EU) (at least the pages containing the description, microchip number and rabies vaccination history).
- A **veterinary certificate** (see below); certificates not in a national language of Switzerland or in English must be accompanied by a certified translation.
- **Confirmation from the competent veterinary authority** stating that the veterinary certificate has been issued by a licensed veterinarian. Confirmations not in a national language of Switzerland or in English must be accompanied by a certified translation.
- **Name and address of the future owner.** If the import application is being submitted not by yourself but by an animal welfare organisation or a third party, the name and address of the person who will keep the dog after entry must be provided.
- Animal welfare organisations must have a **cantonal commercial licence** for the import, to be submitted with the application.
- Dogs that are not being imported by their future owner must be imported commercially using a TRACES/health certificate from the country of origin. The import is deemed to be commercial.
- Veterinary certificates and proof of a professional licence, and additional documents, must be issued in a national language of Switzerland or in English. Otherwise, they must be accompanied by a **certified translation**.

Additional documents required in the case of dogs with congenital stumpy tail:

- **X-rays or the result of a genetic test for congenital stumpy tail**, as follows:

- **Genetic test:** for all breeds of dog known to carry the testable genetic mutation for congenital stumpy tail (brachyury) or taillessness (anury), the congenital short tail must be demonstrated by genetic testing.
 - The sample material must be taken by a licensed veterinarian.
 - A copy of the licence must be submitted together with the results of the genetic test and proof that the sample was taken by a licensed veterinarian. The result of the genetic test must be traceable to the dog via the microchip number.
 - The genetic test also works for crossbreeds that carry the responsible genetic mutation. For these dogs, therefore, instead of or in addition to X-rays (e.g. if the findings were inconclusive), the documents required to demonstrate congenital stumpy tail by means of genetic testing may be submitted.
- **X-rays** of assessable quality: for dogs of unknown pedigree and for dogs of the breeds Boston Terrier, English Bulldog, King Charles Spaniel, Miniature Schnauzer, Parson Russell Terrier and Rottweiler, and for any other breeds for which genetic testing is not offered:
 - With a microchip number
 - One lateral image (= taken from the side) and one dorsoventral image (= taken from the back toward the abdomen)
 - Tail vertebrae, or caudal vertebrae, assessable
- A **veterinary certificate** confirming a congenital defect.
- For **French Bulldogs**, no documents need be submitted because all dogs of this breed have congenitally short tails.

Additional documents required in the case of medically indicated amputation:

- **Medical history with a photograph showing the injury or condition prior to amputation;**
- A **veterinary certificate** confirming a medically indicated amputation.

2. Is it still possible to bring cropped or docked dogs into Switzerland?

The importing of cropped or docked dogs is prohibited. However, owners residing abroad may bring their cropped or docked dog into Switzerland for holidays or other short stays upon payment of a deposit at Customs. Owners moving to Switzerland from abroad may also bring their cropped or docked dog with them. Please check with Customs well in advance of your move to establish whether your dog meets the criteria to be considered as household effects (<https://www.bazg.admin.ch>). The dog may not be advertised, sold, given away or exhibited in Switzerland.

3. Can I travel abroad with a dog that has been cropped or docked?

Anyone wishing to travel abroad with their cropped or docked dog must first obtain confirmation from the veterinary service in their canton of residence (www.blv.admin.ch) in the pet passport and the AMICUS dog database stating that the animal meets the animal welfare requirements for re-entry into Switzerland. Otherwise, it is not possible for it to travel abroad. However, such confirmation in the pet passport will only be issued if it can be proven that the dog was imported as household effects or that the procedure was medically indicated (see point 1).

4. Can I travel abroad with a cropped or docked dog if I have been fined for importing it illegally?

No. You have been fined for infringing a prohibition. The fine is your penalty for importing a cropped or docked dog on a specific day. Even after any criminal proceedings, the dog will only be 'tolerated' in Switzerland and will retain the status of 'illegally imported dog'. Legalisation is therefore impossible, despite paying the fine. If you travel abroad with such a dog and return to Switzerland, the animal will

either be refused entry at the border or, if you smuggle the animal past Customs, new criminal proceedings will be instigated against you.

5. What if I want to travel with a cropped or docked dog to a country that has urban rabies and therefore need a re-entry permit from the FSVO?

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office can only issue a re-entry permit for a cropped or docked dog if the cantonal veterinary office has confirmed in the pet passport that the animal meets the animal welfare requirements for re-entry into Switzerland. As a first step, please contact the veterinary office in your canton of residence (www.blv.admin.ch). If the veterinary office refuses to enter this confirmation in the pet passport, no re-entry permit can be issued.

6. How can you tell if a cropped, docked or short-tailed dog is legally resident in Switzerland?

For dogs that have been imported as household effects goods or with an FSVO import recommendation (see point 1) and have been properly cleared through Customs, the cantonal animal welfare authority will enter a note in the Swiss pet passport and the AMICUS dog database. The entry in the pet passport confirms for future border crossings that the import did not violate any Swiss animal welfare regulations.

Such animals are not deemed legal until the veterinary office of your canton of residence has entered a note to this effect in the pet passport (www.blv.admin.ch).

7. Can cropped or docked dogs participate in shows in Switzerland?

Cropped or docked dogs may not participate in shows. This applies regardless of whether the dogs were illegally cropped/docked and imported, or imported legally as household effects. The show ban also applies to foreign owners wishing to show their cropped or docked dogs in Switzerland.

Legislation: Swiss Animal Welfare Ordinance, AniWO (Tierschutzverordnung, TSchV)

Art. 22 Verbotene Handlungen bei Hunden und Meldepflicht bei Ausnahmen vom Verbot des Coupierens

¹ Bei Hunden sind zudem verboten:

- a. das Coupieren der Rute und der Ohren sowie operative Eingriffe zur Erzeugung von Kippohren;
- d. das Anpreisen, Verkaufen, Verschenken oder Ausstellen von Hunden mit coupierten Ohren oder Ruten, sofern diese den Eingriff unter Verletzung der schweizerischen Tierschutzbestimmungen erlitten haben.
- e. die Ein- oder Durchfuhr von Hunden, die den Ein- beziehungsweise Durchfuhrbestimmungen nach den Artikeln 76a und 76b nicht entsprechen.

² Die Hundehalterinnen und Hundehalter müssen der kantonalen Fachstelle die folgenden Merkmale von Hunden melden:

- a. aus medizinischen Gründen coupierete Ohren oder Ruten;
- c. von Geburt an verkürzte Ruten.

³ Die kantonale Fachstelle erfasst die Merkmale in der Datenbank nach Artikel 30 Absatz 2 des Tierseuchengesetzes vom 1. Juli 1966 (TSG).

Art. 76a Einfuhr von Hunden: Hunde mit coupierten Ohren oder coupierter Rute

¹ Die Einfuhr von Hunden mit coupierten Ohren oder coupierter Rute ist verboten. Ausgenommen davon ist die Einfuhr von Hunden, deren Ohren oder Rute aus medizinischen Gründen coupiert wurden, sowie die Einfuhr von Hunden mit coupierten Ohren oder coupierter Rute als Übersiedlungsgut.

² Wollen in der Schweiz wohnhafte Halterinnen und Halter Hunde mit verkürzten Ohren oder verkürzter Rute einführen, so müssen sie dem BLV vor der Einfuhr den Nachweis erbringen, dass das Coupieren der Ohren oder der Rute aus medizinischen Gründen erfolgt ist oder dass der Hund von Geburt an eine verkürzte Rute hat. Das BLV stellt eine entsprechende Bestätigung aus.

³ Hunde mit coupierten Ohren oder coupierter Rute, die als Übersiedlungsgut eingeführt wurden, dürfen in der Schweiz nicht angepriesen oder an Ausstellungen gezeigt werden. Sie dürfen verkauft oder verschenkt werden, wenn sie von der bisherigen Halterin oder dem bisherigen Halter nicht mehr gehalten werden können.

⁴ Hunde mit coupierten Ohren oder coupierter Rute dürfen von im Ausland wohnhaften Halterinnen und Haltern für Ferien oder andere Kurzaufenthalte vorübergehend in die Schweiz verbracht werden. Solche Hunde dürfen in der Schweiz nicht angepriesen, verkauft, verschenkt oder an Ausstellungen gezeigt werden.

⁵ Die Hundehalterinnen und Hundehalter müssen der kantonalen Fachstelle verkürzte Ohren oder eine verkürzte Rute bei Hunden, die eingeführt wurden, melden. Die kantonale Fachstelle erfasst die Merkmale in der Datenbank nach Artikel 30 Absatz 2 (TSG).

Art. 76c Ein- und Durchfuhr von Hunden: Massnahmen

¹ Stellt das BAZG im Rahmen der Zollkontrolle Hunde fest, deren Ein- oder Durchfuhr verboten ist, oder kann ihm die Bestätigung nach Artikel 76a Absatz 2 nicht vorgelegt werden, so meldet es dies der zuständigen Behörde des Wohnsitzkantons der Hundehalterin oder des Hundehalters. Besteht kein Wohnsitz in der Schweiz, so erfolgt die Meldung an den Kanton, auf dessen Gebiet die Kontrolle erfolgte. Stellt das BAZG solche Hunde oder eine fehlende Bestätigung an den zugelassenen Grenzkontrollstellen fest, so meldet es dies dem grenztierärztlichen Dienst.

² Die zuständige Behörde ordnet nötigenfalls die Rückweisung an.