

I have heard of having a dogs tail docked and dewclaws removed, should I have this done?

Tail docking is the surgical shortening of the tail done to treat injury or disease or to comply with traditional breed standards. Dewclaw removal is the surgical removal of the small claws located on the side of the paws. These claws are typically only found on the front paws but can occasionally be seen on the back paws as well. Dewclaws do not touch the ground when the dog walks, so the nail will not be able to naturally be ground down without trimming. Because of their location, these claws are more prone to injury and are frequently removed. Unless done for injury or disease reasons, these procedures are done at a very early age by the puppy's breeder or breeder's veterinarian. The breeder will need to watch the incision sites for signs of infection, and will need to keep the mother dog from chewing at the incision sites. Discuss the need for these procedures with your breeder and veterinarian, many times these choices are cosmetic or traditional only and your pet can live happily without these surgeries.