



From Victorian Canine Association Inc
trading as DOGS Victoria

Responsible Dog Breeders

For the betterment of the breed

A recent TV episode of RSPCA Rescue included a segment showing officers visiting a Dobermann breeder in New South Wales under accusations that she had docked the tails of her litter of puppies. Legislation banning tail docking is relatively new in Australia, introduced into most states within the last few years.

The dogs and puppies on the premises looked happy and healthy. They were obviously well cared for and much loved animals. The breeder was clearly passionate about her breed; her house was awash in Dobermann paraphernalia, photos and show trophies.

In Victoria, all breeders registered with DOGS Victoria (state body of the Australian National Kennel Council – ANKC) agree to abide by a code of ethics that states they will “breed for the betterment of the breed.”

Although the ANKC does not officially require it, the Dobermann Club of Victoria encourages all members to have potential breeding stock DNA tested for a heritable disease affecting the breed, vonWillebrand Disease (vWD).

The club is working toward eradicating this disease, and a clear test for vWD is considered just as important as temperament and physical attributes when selecting which dogs to breed. Just because a dog is a Champion doesn't necessarily mean it is going to be selected to pass on its genetic material.

The Dobermann Club finds offensive any suggestion that their members would engage in acts of cruelty toward their animals.

Dobermanns bred by such responsible breeders, such as the puppies seen on the show, are much more likely to grow up into healthy, happy dogs that are great whether you own one to show, compete in obedience trials or simply as a beloved family pet.

Everyone can agree that healthy, well-bred puppies raised in loving homes make the best future pets.

The ultimate choice in this debate lies in the hands of the puppy buyers. Just as you can choose to buy a well-bred puppy instead of one from a “puppy farm”, it is up to the puppy buyer to take a stance on this issue and choose to buy a puppy with or without a tail as they see fit.