

# THE TALE OF TAILS - AND DEW CLAWS 2

15 years is a long time to be doing something from habit.

That was the case of docking tails and removing dew claws on the poodle puppies from Cantope. That was the way our mentor taught us and that's what we did without question.....until....

November 2012 was the turning point.

After much discussion and even more research, we began to question “why” we were performing altering surgery on our poodles. Just because we had always done it that way was not a sufficient reason. Especially when our research was leading us to understand that poodles need their tails and dew claws.

In addition:

- Europe has long since banned cropping and docking.
- UK had followed a few years ago.
- Some of the States in the US were no longer allowing the procedures.
- Maritime Vets in Canada were directed by their Veterinary Association that they were no longer allowed to crop or dock.

Arguments from long established breeders were that the judges are used to seeing cropped tails on poodles in the show ring. Field enthusiasts insisted that dew claws would be ripped off and tails broken. Yes, there may be a very small percentage of accidents, but in the overall scheme of things, removing dew claws and cropping tails had much more of a negative impact than a possible field injury or an esthetic appeal.

Poodles need their natural tail for rudders when swimming, for balance when running and jumping and for displaying emotion and greeting. Poodles also use their dew claws for traction when “cornering” while running and for “holding” items to chew.

So, since November 2012, Cantope no longer alters what Mother Nature gave the poodle. Cantope poodles come with natural tails and dew claws intact.

If you are searching for a “natural” tail, you have come to the right breeder. If you insist on a cropped tail, there are still breeders out there performing that procedure.

If you have any questions, we will be pleased to answer them.