



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CANINE PROFESSIONALS

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IACP Position on Debarking

A dog that is debarked doesn't realize it is debarked. Any pleasure it receives from barking is still there although it does keep the noise level down. Those that would prevent this safe, simple and inexpensive operation are perhaps well meaning but they do not understand the canine mind.

A "reason" that has been given for attempted passage of anti-barking laws is that the criminal element may debark so that law officers would not know when they were being attacked. This is a ridiculous statement as the dog will still be able to make a noise albeit not so loud and the criminal element is unlikely to spend money and effort on debarking. Even though debarked, the dog is still able to bark and does so, simply at a lower volume. It is a prime example of the tail wagging the dog.

The International Association of Canine Professionals are well-qualified in all aspects of dogs and their behavior and has taken the position that such laws will present problems to some dog owners and potential annoyance to the general public. Dogs will bark for many reasons. Some are good reasons and some are without reason in our minds. Whatever the reason there is no doubt that continual barking does create public annoyance and can be very disturbing. And, even the best behaved family pet can be a neurotic barker when outside in the yard. With certain breeds it is in their genetic make up. It is possible, through training, to efficaciously teach a dog not to bark and generally speaking that would be preferred over surgical debarking. However, there are so many variables involved in whether or not to debark that the decision is best left in the hands of the dog owner who can make the required decision with the advice of a Qualified Veterinarian and a Dog Trainer.

To restrict the debarking of dogs through government regulations could result in dogs being removed from a family and even euthanized. The IACP is unalterably opposed to these oppressive laws which are based on human emotions and not on canine common sense.

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