

Surgical Alteration of Companion Animals for Cosmetic Reasons

Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society does not support the surgical alteration of companion animals for cosmetic purposes. Examples of cosmetic procedures include tail docking and ear cropping. Surgical alterations due to injury or for health reasons are not considered cosmetic.

Rationale

- Cosmetic surgery may cause unnecessary pain and suffering.
- Cosmetic surgery may lead to life threatening complications such as infection and hemorrhage.
- Cosmetic surgery poses no benefit to companion animals, and is sometimes ineffective in achieving the desired result.

References

1. British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. "Cosmetic and Other Non-Therapeutic Alterations." BC SPCA position statement, Vancouver, 2014.
2. Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. "Cosmetic Surgery." CFHS position statement, Ottawa, n.d.
3. Humane Society of the United States. "Cosmetic Surgery on Animals." HSUS policy statement, Washington, 2005.