

TAIL DESCRIPTION CHANGE IN THE AKC ROTTWEILER STANDARD

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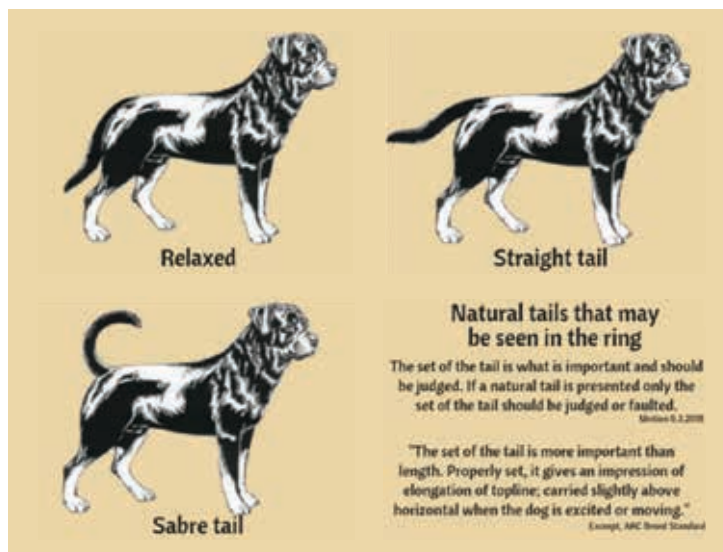
Article and Images Submitted by the American Rottweiler Club

The American Rottweiler Club membership voted by more than two-thirds vote to pass a Breed Standard change to add a description of an undocked tail. The ARC had eight tailed dogs awarded points via Winners, Reserve Winners, or Award of Merit at our last eight National Specialties. It seemed timely to add a description of the tail.

Rottweilers are similar around the world, and when I attended a few of the large ADRK Klubsieger shows in Germany, with 600 Rottweilers entered from over 30 countries present, it was heartening to see that our breed looks very much the same around the world. The one big difference in our Standards is that the FCI allows for no missing teeth, while the AKC Standard allows for one missing tooth, although it is considered a serious fault.

The docked portion of our Standard remained the same, but a description of the undocked tail was added:

“Tail – The set of the tail is more important than its length. Properly set, it gives an impression of elongation of the topline; carried slightly above horizontal when the dog is excited or moving. Docked, the tail is short, close to the body leaving one or two tail vertebrae. Undocked, the tail is carried straight or upward curved and may hang at rest. Faults—Tails with kinks, strong lateral deviation, or ringtails.”



If you look at the chart of tail sets above, you can see that the tail can be saber, or straight behind. It also shows tail carriages that are faulty. Since kinks in the tail are considered faulty, it is important for the judge to check and feel the tail. Check the croup as this can affect the tail set. “Croup is broad, of medium length and only slightly sloping.” The tail should not be high set but has a slight slope, which can help with the rear drive and correct tail set.

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Saber Tail



Relaxed Tail



Straight Tail



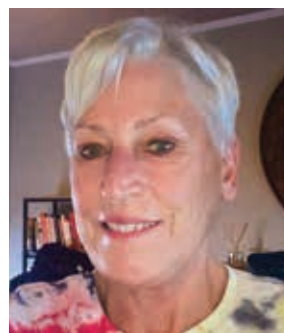
Illustration of the Ring Tail in Rottweilers per ADRK Judging

Please note, undocked tails are very new for Rottweilers in the United States. Germany has been working on correct tails for 30 years. You will see a variety of tails until Americans have had time to breed for correct set and carriage. We have listed some faults in the undocked tails, but no DQs yet. We want you to critique the whole dog, not just a part or parts. And we thank you for that.

I hope these illustrations and drawings illustrate the correct tail set and carriage when judging the Rottweiler. Tails can be an indication of the dog's mood and how comfortable it may be in the ring. Male tails can go straight up when around a female in heat, or with another dog confronting them. Always remember to assess and judge the whole dog to our Standard.

I hope all of you have fun with this athletic and versatile breed that I love so much, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

—Lew Olson, American Rottweiler Club Judges Education Chair, lewolson@earthlink.net. ■



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lew Olson has had a lifelong love of dogs. She started showing dogs in 1974, with a Doberman Pinscher. Later, she saw her first Rottweiler in 1978 and has had one ever since. She has bred 100 champions and has had Best in Show and Specialty winning Rottweilers. Lew has attended several Rottweiler shows in Germany

and has judged Rottweilers in Finland, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Trinidad, and Jamaica. She has judged at the American Rottweiler Club twice and the Canadian Rottweiler Club National. Lew started judging in 2001 and currently has the Working, Toy, and Non-Sporting Groups and is working on her fourth. She has a Facebook page called Rottweiler Education Uncensored and continues to update it weekly. Lew has had Brussels Griffons for 13 years and is still showing both the Brussels Griffons and Rottweilers in Conformation and Performance Events.