



To:
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature
Animal Agro-Chains and Animal Welfare Directorate

**Netherlands
Enterprise Agency**
Licensing, Enforcement,
Nature and Animal
Department

Of:
Netherlands Enterprise Agency

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Note

Feasibility and enforceability assessment (UHT) of the ban on admission to and participation in competitions, exhibitions and inspections involving docked dogs and horses.

Date
15 August 2025

Background

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) received a request from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature dated 30 July, reference DGA-DAD/100215289, to carry out a renewed UHT on the above-mentioned ban. In the UHT of 21 January (request with reference DGA-DAD/89139686), the Netherlands Enterprise Agency assessed that the ban is not feasible or enforceable.

Key points

The purpose of this ban is to provide supervisors at competitions, exhibitions and inspections with the means and opportunities to tackle fraud involving docked dogs and horses.

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency recommendations made in the UHT of 21 January were adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature. The main changes to the ban are as follows:

- The exception for participation in and admission to sporting competitions for dogs with medically necessary (partial) tail amputation is included in an exemption scheme rather than in the decree.
- The cut-off date for the ban on participation in and admission to competitions, exhibitions and inspections of lawfully docked horses has been changed from the date on which the procedure took place to the horse's date of birth.
- The exemption is limited to dogs that have undergone a (partial) tail amputation for veterinary reasons.
- The keeper is required to present a certificate from the veterinarian confirming the veterinary need for the procedure.
- A clear tightening of the definition of sporting competitions.
- The administrative fine for this ban will be regulated.

Recommendation

The Netherlands Enterprise Agency assesses the renewed ban as feasible and enforceable.

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