

American Veterinary Medical History Society

"Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History"

Vintage Veterinary Instrument #4

Canine Ear Cropping Clamp, circa. 1910



This clamp, attributed to Dr. C.A. White, was used for cropping the ears of dogs. The clamp holds a triangular pattern for trimming the ears of various sizes and breeds of dogs. No specific date is known, but this instrument likely dates from around 1910.

Canine and Feline Instruments. American Veterinary Supply Company, Kansas City, Mo., 1919 catalog, p. 260. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/coo1.ark:/13960/t1xd1fp09?urlappend=%3Bseq=264>

Ear cropping is presently opposed by the American Veterinary Medical Association solely for cosmetic purposes. The AVMA also encourages the elimination of ear cropping from breed standards. See the AVMA's "History of Policy of Ear Cropping and Tail Docking of Dogs [1976-2012]." https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/AnimalWelfare/Documents/tail_docking_history.pdf

"Literature Review on the Welfare Implications of Ear Cropping—Dogs, March 13, 2013." https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/LiteratureReviews/Documents/dogs_ear_cropping_bgnd.pdf

Instrument and description provided by Fred J. Born, DVM (Fond du Lac, Wisconsin), February 6, 2018.