

Dear Committee Assistant, Maria Hernandez,

Greetings,

Today, my dumped declawed cat started limping, she was thrown out like trash into the woods, she bites, does not purr, and growls in her sleep. I have had her for nine years and she still does not purr, maybe a meow sometimes when I feed her. WHY are veterinarians allowed to ruin cats this way? Why did I cry today for my cat? My other declawed cat, who was also a reject has bone regrowth coming out of her paw pads. This must hurt, cats hide their pain. Animal cruelty should not be legal, veterinarians do not want to give it up because they charge anywhere from \$200-\$700 or more for a 20 minute operation that leaves a cat crippled.

CASSANDRA LIMPING-TWO PHOTOS





CAMEO WITH REGROWTH COMING OUT OF HER PAW PADS



- NOTES ABOUT THE BILL FROM THE PAW PROJECT
- HB 3494-A contains unacceptable loopholes and will not protect dogs and cats. The bill would allow declawing and devocalization to continue unchecked in Oregon at the sole discretion of veterinarians. The bill is not a step forward for animals. Rather, it is a step backwards in the movement to protect animals from unnecessary harm.

We feel that Oregon HB 3494-A would harm efforts to effectually end declawing (and devocalization, which the bill also deals with) because:

- It allows exceptions that are giant loopholes and that would not stop vets from finding ways to declaw and devocalize as usual. It would codify the status quo.
- The exceptions (see below) are the same "last resort" and "protect human health" exceptions promoted by the AVMA. This bill is more of an "informed consent" bill (written by the AVMA) than a real ban.
- In the past, the **Paw Project** was able to get 100% of what we asked for, this would give cats 5% of that protection
- This bill, if used as model legislation, could invalidate the anti-declaw laws in place in California and set back the efforts to effect real change to end declawing 20 years.
- The reason that Oregon veterinarians are not opposing is not because the bill is "flying under the radar." It is because this is a *gift* to the vets and will not substantively change the way they currently practice.
- This bill could also harm a [NY state anti-declaw bill] that was introduced this year. The **Paw Project** wishes to avoid similar exceptions from being introduced.

Sincerely,  
Donna Drury