

Dear Maria,

I understand there will be a public hearing in the Oregon Senate in Salem, on Tuesday June 2 at 3 PM regarding the subject bill. I regret I cannot attend.

While I have personally never declawed my cats (even when I didn't know the truth and thought it was just like a human nail bed I still thought it was cruel) I know of a cat who is declawed and looks decrepit from it.

My boyfriends mom wanted to get his cat declawed and I begged her not to (this is before we moved in together so now he is part my kitty!) and she said "I've always had declawed cats and they're fine" The reason she wanted to do it was because of furniture. I promised to trim his nails and train him not to scratch the furniture. Thankfully, she agreed.

All the furniture in our home is scratch free as our cats have a huge scratch post and I trim their nails every couple weeks. And if I do get a scratch, or the couch gets nicked - what would I rather? Shrug and move on about a little scratch, or mutilate my cat for life?

Almost 30 other countries have outright banned declawing (not to mention devocalization, tail docking and ear cropping) and see it as animal abuse. It certainly is. North America needs to wake up and realize the horrors we have committed upon the animals that rely on us for safety and comfort.

While my cats are happy and healthy and whole, my boyfriends moms older declawed cat sits back on his haunches quite often, indicating arthritis and he uses his "palms" to walk on. I noticed when we were over at her house the other day his feet are so flat which made me so sad. Cats walk on their toes normally - a declawed cat has to use his/her wrists to walk upon to not feel the pain of potential scarring/bone fragments/abscesses on their paws. It's so sad to witness. And there are thousands of witnesses to this. So many people have realized what they've done to their cats and felt horrible about it since their vet suggested the surgery to them without telling them what it really entails. All for the money.

PLEASE amend this bill so there are NO loopholes to get through. Declawing (along with all other purely selfish (only benefiting the human) surgeries) MUST be banned with no exceptions!!!! How despicable that we (North America as a whole) allow this disgusting act to continue on longer. 95% of people who declaw their cats said it was to protect their furniture. Oregon could lead the way and show other states and provinces how to proceed, only if this bill is amended and these surgeries are made illegal.

A living creature deserves more rights than a couch. This must end now.

Thank you,

Molly Nicolson  
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