



114-10 Beach Channel Drive  
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May 30, 2015

Re: In Opposition of HB3494-A - OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED -  
Senate Committee on Human Services & Early Childhood  
(Scheduled for June 2nd)

Dear Ms. Hernandez,

My name is Dr. Allan Simon and I work for a non-profit organization with directors in Oregon. I have been in veterinary practice since 1973, a time when declawing cats was commonplace. Looking back at the procedure (my practice no longer declaws cats for any reason) it seems like the dark ages, a time of torture and cruelty.

Declawing causes pain – chronic pain – that becomes a part of a cat's life. Declawed cats can become aggressive and bite, which is why even the CDC (Center for Disease Control) does not recommend declawing cats that reside with immunocompromised individuals.

The humane thing to do, if there is a concern, is to clip the cat's nails, or apply Soft Paws, rather than amputate their toes.

This is common sense and this is what is done in many civilized countries. Would you cut the tips of your fingers off so you do not have to clip your nails?

The true facts are out there. Do not declaw under any circumstances other than a medically necessary procedure to save a cat's life, such as you would perform limb amputation for cancer or flesh eating bacteria in a person. Veterinarians will continue to declaw as they do now, if given a loophole. No exceptions, please.

Declawed cats are more prone to bite - think of person bitten by a declawed cat and getting a severe infection. Don't be swayed by arguments comparing cats to antique furniture, now a You-Tube sensation.

Sincerely yours,

Allan Simon, DVM  
Animal Hospital of the Rockaways  
Co-Director, Paw Project-NY