

To those representing Oregonians and their pets,

I oppose the current version HB3494-A, which has one inexcusable flaw in that it does not completely ban the inhumane act of declawing and debarking. It should be amended to ban all declawing and debarking.

In this modern millennium we condemn the cutting out of tongues for "false" speech, and severing of fingers and hands to punish thieves. That we view such punishments for crimes against humanity as inhumane, why then should we allow such violence against creatures we have breed to be dependent on us. Their only lot in life is to be our companions, so to punish them for the "crime" of their own anatomy is absurd. Cutting off finger tips because upholstery is slightly damages, or loosing the ability to speak because of vocalizing anxiety issues from long days at home, these are surgical punishments for being "annoyances" to the life style of a single human individual, not inherent issues that could not be solved with a wide variety of solutions. Upon loosing such inherent anatomy these subjugated lives are then left more vulnerable and often develop even more extreme behavior options, often increased likelihood of biting, because they now have no other means of communicating.

That we have deemed these surgeries barbaric for our own species we should have the empathy to realize they are even more so for species that cannot voice their reasoning to us. Amend HB3494-A to ban all forms of declawing and debarking, or vote against the measure until a truly humane solution is put before you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Devon Burrus".

Devon Burrus

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