

CITY OF ALAMEDA RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

PROHIBITING CAT DECLAWING, ALSO KNOWN AS ONYCHECTOMY OR  
TENDONECTOMY

Whereas, cat declawing through onychectomy and tendonectomy is an extremely painful process of removing claws through bone amputation and tendon removal preventing the claw from growing back. After the surgery the cat is only left with the stud of their paws, which is the equivalent of chopping off human fingers at the knuckle.

Whereas, surgical complications result in lameness, paw atrophy, abnormal regrowth, joint stiffness, arthritis, and stress on legs and spine.

Whereas, cats experience physical and mental hardships after being declawed including falling off fences, throbbing pain, litter box avoidance, limping, phantom pain, antisocial tendencies, and they become defenseless against other animals. Declawed cats are more likely to develop biting as a response to threat, posing a serious public safety concern for residents of Alameda.

Whereas, cat declawing at the owner's request without a therapeutic medical reason is unnecessary and cruel to the animal.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA DOES  
RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

The legislature of the State of California enacted a statute stating that no person should remove healthy tissues, especially with bone or tendon, by performing onychectomy or tendonectomy, from an animal's paw except a licensed veterinarian. A licensed veterinarian can only perform a partial or full phalangectomy surgery for physical therapeutic reasons such as anatomical pathology like a tumor, an uncontrollable infection, or non-healing trauma. It shall not be allowed for the sake of convenience, aesthetics, or handling of an animal.

While the State has preempted local authority on this issue, we wish to state our general opposition to the practice of cat declawing in our community and encourage a statewide ban on the practice.