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September 26, 2017

The Honorable Councilwoman Kendra Black
Denver City Council District 4
3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80210

Dear Councilwoman Black:

I wish to extend my support for your progressive move to protect Denver cats and other animals from the inhumane practice of declawing. I do so as the General Manager of Los Angeles Animal Services Department, which operates and oversees all of the public animal shelters in the city of Los Angeles.

Los Angeles has a proud tradition of being on the forefront in the humane treatment of animals. Los Angeles has had an ordinance prohibiting declawing since November 2009 and was one of the first cities, and certainly the largest, to end this antiquated practice. I wholeheartedly support this law.

Opponents to anti-declaw legislation often speculate that there will be a deluge of cats coming into the public shelters system if legal declawing is not available. This emotional claim is not supported by the hard statistics gathered by the Los Angeles Animal Services Department, which serves a city of 4 million people. There were 26,942 owner-surrendered cats that came into the Los Angeles shelter system in the five years before the Los Angeles declaw ban went into effect, compared to 15,276 owner-surrendered cats in the five years afterward, a reduction of 43.3%.

In addition to protecting animals from harm, I see that our local ordinance has helped foster the growing knowledge and understanding that, in addition to the grossly inhumane procedure of declawing, declawed cats often develop behaviors that make them much less desirable as pets or cripple them for life.

I hope your colleagues in the Denver Legislature are able to see that this is a procedure that should no longer be performed. It is not done in many industrialized nations and is no longer performed in the

"Creating a Humane LA"

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Visit our website at www.LAAnimalServices.com

The Honorable Councilwoman Kendra Black
Denver City Council District 4
September 26, 2017

California cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Berkeley, Burbank, Culver City, Santa Monica, and Beverly Hills.

Sincerely,



BRENDA F. BARNETTE
GENERAL MANAGER



October 16, 2017

The Honorable Kendra Black
Denver City Council, District 4
3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

RE: Council Bill No. CB17-0709 – Amending the Definition of Cruelty to Animals to include Cat Declawing

Dear Councilwoman Black,

I wish to extend my support for your courageous effort to protect the felines of Denver by amending the Denver Animal Control Code to ban the inhumane practice of declawing (onychectomy). For the last 25 years, I have been a shelter worker, a cat behavior and wellness consultant, and finally have hosted a popular TV show on Animal Planet called, *My Cat From Hell*. From all these experiences and working with tens of thousands of cats and cat-lovers, I have witnessed first-hand the detrimental effects of declawing. Declawing, more accurately deknuckling, is something I come across every day in my profession. The practice is inhumane and barbaric.

Claws are a physically, socially, and emotionally vital part of every cat. Scratching, for a cat, is not only a natural act, but a necessary one as well. It is an essential element of a cats' ability to communicate, problem-solve, and stay healthy and secure. When a cat loses his ability to protect himself with his claws, the second line of defense is biting.

A 2001 study by the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association found that declawed cats are at an increased risk of abandonment or relinquishment to an animal shelter due to behavioral problems (e.g. not using a litterbox, biting, aggression, anxiety).

Again, through my hands-on experience working with tens of thousands of cats, I know the problems, frustrations and pain that declawing causes. When I say it's a barbaric practice it's because I know, not because I've heard.

Thank you for bringing this effort to the Denver City Council. I will be following your bill closely with the hope of seeing Denver become the first city in Colorado to ban this unnecessary and inhumane practice.

Respectfully,

Jackson Galaxy
The Cat Daddy



COLORADO
VOTERS
FOR ANIMALS

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Kendra Black
Denver City Council, District 4
3540 S Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

RE: Council Bill No. CB17-0709 – Cruelty to animals prohibited

Dear Councilwoman Black,

Colorado Voters for Animals, which represents over four-thousand supporters in the Denver-Metro area, supports the proposed Council Bill; CB17-0709, which would prohibit the nontherapeutic surgical claw removal (including onychectomy or tendonectomy) of all feline species.

Several years ago, Colorado Voters for Animals adopted an official position on this matter is as follows:

Elective/Cosmetic Surgery

CVA opposes any form of elective, cosmetic or other unnecessary surgical procedures that are painful, stressful or restrictive to the function of a body part when performed for the benefit of the animal owner not the animal. Examples of cosmetic /elective surgeries are declawing, debarking, defanging, ear cropping and tail docking.

This policy does not include the surgical procedure of spaying/neutering animals.

Colorado Voters for Animals urges the Denver City Council to pass CB17-0709, which will prevent needless permanent suffering to feline animals.

Sincerely,

Lori Greenstone, President
Colorado Voters for Animals



Citizens for Lois Court
780 Elizabeth Street
Denver, CO 80206-3821
Website: www.LoisCourt.com
Email Address: Lois@LoisCourt.com
Phone: 303-355-3546

The Honorable Kendra Black
Denver City Council District 4
3540 South Poplar St.; Suite 100
Denver CO 80237

September 27, 2017

Hi Kendra – I'm writing at the request of my constituent, Aubry Lavizzo, to express my support for your Bill 17-0709. You may be aware that we have looked at this issue at the state level and been unsuccessful. I'm hoping that with Denver leading the way, we might have better luck in the future at state-wide legislation.

I support this bill for the following reasons:

- The amputation of cats' toes, or declawing is by nature an inherently cruel procedure done in most cases to protect furniture and does not benefit cats and has been shown to cause other, more undesirable or harmful behavior, such as biting.
- Additionally, the US Department of Agriculture Information Sheet on Declawing and Tooth Removal, issued in August 2006, states that declawing of wild or exotic carnivores can cause considerable pain and discomfort to the animal and may result in chronic health problems, and is therefore no longer allowed under the Animal Welfare Act, yet the declawing of domestic cats by veterinarians is supported by veterinary associations like the American Veterinary Medical Association even though domestic cats also undergo pain and discomfort and may also suffer chronic health problems.
- Therefore, I strongly urge Denver City Council members to support CB17-0709 to ban the harmful practice of declawing cats.

Thank you for bringing this bill forward. I'll look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely, *Lois*

Lois Court

State Senator, District 31





CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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FAX: (323) 848-6562

TTY: For hearing impaired
(323) 848-6496

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LAUREN MEISTER
Councilmember

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Councilwoman Kendra Black
Denver City Council District 4,
3540 South Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT DECLAWING

Dear Councilwoman Black,

I am writing you as one of four HIV positive elected officials in the United States and the original author of the first municipal ordinance banning the barbaric and inhumane practice of onychectomy (declawing).

During our long quest to prevent this unnecessary and cruel procedure, many things have been argued by the opponents of the ban. One of the arguments opponents presented is that people living with HIV should be able to declaw their cats to prevent cats' scratching and spreading disease. Ironically, published studies indicate that cats that have been declawed tend to bite, and it is through biting that bacteria found in a cat's mouth can transmit disease and cause infections.

West Hollywood has led the fight to protect cats and other animals from this painful and cruel procedure, and thanks to the commitment of our friends at The Paw Project (Dr. Jenny Conrad, Dr. Jim Jensvold and many others) the ban is now a reality in West Hollywood, as well as the City of Los Angeles, the City and County of San Francisco, Berkeley, Culver City, Santa Monica, Burbank, and Beverly Hills. These bans now protect more than 2 million animals from being declawed.

I hope your colleagues on the Denver City Council are able to see that this is a procedure that should be banned as it has been banned in several industrialized nations.

Sincerely,

John J. Duran,
MAYOR PRO TEMPORE



September 25, 2017

The Honorable Councilwoman Kendra Black
3540 S. Poplar Street, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

Dear Councilwoman Black:

As a respected veterinarian, long-term resident of Denver, and a constituent, I am writing to urge you to **support CB 17-0709**. If enacted into law, CB 17-0709 would prohibit the declawing of cats except in rare cases of medical/therapeutic necessity on the cat's behalf. The declawing of cats is a cruel and unnecessary practice that can cause physical and psychological harm.

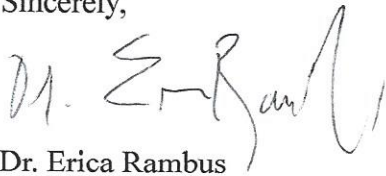
A 1996 graduate of CSU, I have practiced veterinary medicine for 21 years and have worked exclusively with cats for the past 14 years of my career. I am currently the medical director of Divine Feline/The Feline Fix, a non-profit organization which has promoted the neutering of community cats since our inception in 2003. I have been the recipient of the Colorado Federation of Animal Welfare Agencies award and my wonderful staff received the CVMA 2013 CACVT team award.

Declawing (onychectomy) describes a painful process involving the amputation of the last bone in each toe of a cat to prevent them from scratching and destroying objects. There are much simpler, more humane solutions to the problems that these procedures attempt to address - such as installing scratching posts, behavioral training, or applying nail covers known as "Soft Paws," to name a few. While toe removal might be medically appropriate in very rare circumstances (and would be listed as an exception under the law), such procedures are inhumane when performed for convenience reasons.

Furthermore, despite claims to the contrary, **declawing cats does not increase the likelihood that the cat will remain in his home**. Quite the opposite, declawed cats are less likely to use their litter box and are more likely to bite. These behaviors can lead more owners to relinquish their cats to animal shelters. Quite simply, declawing is not in the best interest of cats or cat owners.

On behalf of the cats and those of us who love and care for them, I urge you to support CB 17-0709.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Erica Rambus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "E".

Dr. Erica Rambus



October 17, 2017

The Honorable Kendra Black
Denver City Council, District 4
3540 S. Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

RE: Council Bill No. CB17-0709 - Cruelty to animals prohibited

Dear Councilwoman Black:

I write in support of the proposed Council Bill 17-0709 which prohibits the nontherapeutic declawing of cats in Denver.

As the founder of Denver Cat Company, a pioneering "cat café" in the United States, I have worked with half a dozen reputable rescue organizations in the Denver Metro Area over the course of three years. All of these organizations, having at the heart of their mission the well-being of rescue animals, have anti-declaw policies in place. I have facilitated the adoptions of over 400 cats via the cat café, and through my work with these animals, have first-hand seen the painful consequences to cats who were declawed and then abandoned.


Prohibiting this practice will not only prevent the needless infliction of pain on helpless creatures within Denver, but it will also serve the purpose of educating the wider population in Colorado that declawing is no longer generally accepted as a harmless routine procedure.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Sana Q. Hamelin, Esq.

Founder and President, Denver Cat Company



**FORT COLLINS
CAT RESCUE
& SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC**

September 28, 2017

The Honorable Kendra Black
Denver City Council District 4
3540 South Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

RE: In Support of Your Bill to Prohibit Surgical Declawing of Cats

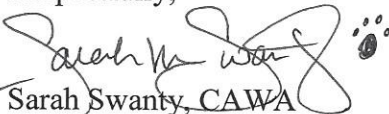
Dear Councilwoman Black,

I write to you today as the co-founder and executive director of Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic, a non-profit organization located in Fort Collins that shelters and adopts out approximately 2,300 cats and kittens each year. As an experienced former veterinary technician, and a current leader in animal welfare, I strongly support CB17-0709, your bill to include surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any cat in the definition of animal cruelty.

I support this bill because you are correct to define these procedures as animal cruelty. They are unnecessary, debilitating, and in some instances – fatal. Cats that have been declawed oftentimes exhibit unwanted behaviors due to pain or the inability to properly defend themselves, such as biting and inappropriate urination/defecation, and these behaviors land them in shelters where they are tagged as “unadoptable” and are subsequently euthanized. (Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic is an adoption-guarantee shelter and does *not* euthanize felines for behavioral issues.)

Our organization requires adopters to sign a contract agreeing to never declaw any cats or kittens adopted from us. Our mission is to prevent pet homelessness, and stopping the cruel practice of declawing is an important step to achieving this mission. I am in full support of your effort to make Denver the first city in Colorado to ban this cruel practice, and I strongly urge the Council to make this bill law.

Respectfully,



Sarah Swanty, CAWA
Executive Director
(970) 281-7496
Sarah@fccrsnc.org

Fort Collins Cat Rescue & Spay/Neuter Clinic is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, Tax ID# 20-4969731

Shelter: 2321 E. Mulberry St. #1, Fort Collins, CO 80524 (970) 484-8516
Clinic: 2321 E. Mulberry St. #3, Fort Collins, CO 80524 (970) 484-1861
www.FCCRSNC.org

LA ALMA
LINCOLN PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Subject: Council Bill No. CB17-0709 –
Cruelty to animals prohibited

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Kendra Black
Denver City Council, District 4
3540 S Poplar St., Suite 100
Denver, CO 80237

Dear Councilwoman Black,

The La Alma-Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association (LA-LPNA) stands with the organization Colorado Voters for Animals in support of proposed Council Bill, CB17-0709, which would prohibit the nontherapeutic surgical claw removal (including onychectomy or tendonectomy) of all feline species.

The practice of declawing is unnecessary and inherently cruel, unless performed for therapeutic reasons, and the practice of tendonectomy serves no therapeutic or valid purpose other than to protect furniture from harm.

Additionally, as the organization representative of one of the most culturally and socio-economically diverse neighborhoods in Denver, the LA-LPNA Board believes that communities become cohesive when empathy for all cultures is held highly as a core value. As such, the Board are dismayed and disappointed by what is clearly a lack of empathy for domestic felines from veterinarians and veterinary associations that perform or condone the practice of declawing, a practice that is antithetical to the oath sworn to by all veterinarians entering the profession.

The Board of Directors of the La Alma-Lincoln Park Neighborhood Association strongly urges the Denver City Council to pass CB17-0709, which will prevent needless permanent suffering to feline animals.

Sincerely,


Christine Sprague

President, La Alma/Lincoln Park
Neighborhood Association
lincolnparkneighbors@gmail.com

LPNA is a registered neighborhood organization. We strive to represent the interests of and build relationships between our ~6600 residents as well as business owners, students, and community stakeholders, and to share the pride in our sense of place. Our neighborhood extends from Colfax to W 6th Ave and the Platte river (I-25) to Speer Boulevard.



BARNWATER CATS
RESCUE ORGANIZATION

October 16 2017

Dear Councilwoman Black,

Re: DECLAWING CATS

Council Bill 17-0709

YES

Please support any and all changes to our cruelty laws to SUPPORT MAKING Declawing of cats inhumane and CRUEL.

1. DECLAWED CATS are often Returned to OR Surrendered to CAT/ANIMAL Shelters because they have not stopped using their litter boxes with regularity and begun to nip or bite family members. This creates a LIABILITY for shelters and increases "UNADOPTABLES" because who wants a cat that bites or urinates outside of the box when he gets stressed
2. OR sometimes people simply throw the cat outside and that poses problems for both the general public as well as for animal control who have to then waste resources, manpower and time trying to trap and



BARNWATER CATS RESCUE ORGANIZATION

probably euthanize a cat whose only problem was that he was adopted by + declawed by someone who was too ignorant to buy a scratching post OR to lazy to teach their child to stop pulling the cat's tail.

I have been rescuing, sheltering + adopting out cats for over fifty years and the worst things I have seen - ever - are badly done declaws and the terrible impact the procedure had upon a spiritually and physically previously healthy cat.

My Position Statement

DECLAWING is a HORRIBLE, inhumane PERMANENT solution to a TEMPORARY Behavioral Problem.

Would you cut off your child's fingers if she used CRAYONS on the walls?

Please vote "YES" on this Bill

Thanks so much

Kris Field, Exec. Director

3131 East Evans Avenue Denver, CO 80210 Phone (303) 759-2855 Fax. (303) 639-1265

Ps. I am fully licensed by the City + state and have NEVER had any violations!