From:	kathleen flynn
To:	dencc - City Council
Subject:	Cat de-clawing
Date:	Monday, October 23, 2017 10:08:39 PM

I urge Council to disallow the de-clawing of cats. It is a cruel practice and virtually mutilates the cat. It's like removing an elephant's trunk.
As your council woman states, not only the claw is removed, but the entire "knuckle". Cats treated in this manner are helpless and endure pain for the remainder of their lives. Claws help them use a litter pan and they might defecate outside the pan if they can't effectively cover their feces. They have a need to sharpen their claws and might develop neurosis if they "claw" and nothing happens. Worse, as they age they are likely to develop severe arthritis in the mutilated joints.
The American Humane Society urges people to NOT de-claw cats. Yet, some vets still do. The practice brings in money for the vets who should be ensuring the health of animals, not causing them pain.
One vet stated on TV that he would de-claw if the cat owner had an autoimmune disease that a cat scratch could exacerbate. That's baloney. The owner can either be very cautious with the cat, or can find a new home for it. Would he also remove the cat's teeth, so the owner wouldn't be bitten? Don't kill the cat to save a person from an unlikely occurrence.

You can provide a huge service to all cats in Denver and would set an example for other cities if you disallow cat de-clawing.

Thank you for considering this measure.

Kathleen Flynn

The fact that we live at the bottom of a deep gravity well, on the surface of a gas-covered planet going around a nuclear fireball 90 million miles away and think this to be normal is obviously some indication of how skewed our perspective tends to be . . .

Douglas Adams