

**BY AUTHORITY**

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES OF 2017

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB17-0709  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:  
Safety, housing, education, and homelessness

**A BILL**

**For an ordinance adding a new section 8-141 to Chapter 8 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code to prohibit surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, and tendonectomy on cats.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That section 8-141 be added to Article VII of Chapter 8 of the Revised Municipal Code to read as follows:

**Sec. 8-141. – Declawing of cats prohibited.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to declaw a cat.

(b) Notwithstanding the restrictions set forth in subsection (a) of this section, a person may declaw a cat only if:

- (1) The person performing the procedure is a licensed veterinarian;
- (2) Anesthesia is administered to the cat during the procedure; and
- (3) The procedure is medically necessary.

(c) As used in this section:

- (1) Declaw means to surgically remove or alter the claw or claws of a cat by a surgical procedure such as onychectomy or tendonectomy, in order to prevent their normal functioning.
- (2) Medically necessary means that a procedure is necessary to treat or relieve physical illness, infection, disease, or injury, or to correct a congenital abnormality that is causing or will cause the cat physical harm or pain. Medical necessity does not include cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling the cat.

1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: October 25, 2017

2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: October 31, 2017

3 PASSED BY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ - PRESIDENT

5 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

6 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

9 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

10 PREPARED BY: Kirsten Crawford, Assistant City Attorney DATE: November 2, 2017

11 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of  
12 the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed  
13 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §  
14 3.2.6 of the Charter.

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16 Kristin M. Bronson, Denver City Attorney

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18 BY: \_\_\_\_\_, Assistant City Attorney DATE: \_\_\_\_\_