

From: CYNTHIA ZOOK <czoom380@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2021 1:33 PM
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Vote YES on 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Re: December 1, 2021 hearing of Legislative File 67344 at Board of Health for Madison and Dane County

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure.

Declawing is an amputation and de-knuckling, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions, e.g., cancer). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane. **I have friends in Sweden, Germany and England where declawing is illegal and they cannot fathom that mutilation of a cat's toes is done for human convenience. Puppies that dig in the yard do not have their toes amputated to prevent this behavior that is natural to them, rather, they can be trained with positive reinforcement, as cats can be trained to scratch surfaces designated for them.**

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospital operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

I hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities in Wisconsin and in the US.

Respectfully,
Cynthia Zook, Wisconsin Resident

From: Jada Jacques <jadamjacques@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 26, 2021 2:36 PM
To: PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org
Subject: Legislative File 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello members of the Board and Council,

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospitals operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Thank you,
Jada

Jada Jacques
University of Wisconsin-Madison | Class of 2021
jadamjacques@gmail.com | (920) 655-1158

From: Susan Schroeder <ssmonetluvr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2021 3:36 PM
To: PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders
<allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>;
info@pawproject.org
Subject: Legislative File 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I strongly support the proposed ordinance banning declawing of cats by any means...surgery, laser, etc. It is an amputation that can permanently deform, cause a lifetime of pain, and change forever the quality of life for the animals.

There is no evidence that declawing improves home life after surgery. Facts show that shelters are finding more homes for animals NOT declawed. Let Madison join other progressive cities around the world which have banned this in humane practice.

Thank you,
Susan Bichel
Stoughton, WI 53589

From: Stacey Garbarski <contact@staceygarbarski.com>

Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2021 7:51 PM

To: PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Board of Health for Madison/Dane County, 12/1/21 5pm **Agenda item #**: 11

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am emailing to show my support for agenda item #11- the city ordinance to ban the declawing of cats.

Thank you,

Stacey Garbarski
103 n 7th St, Madison, WI 53704

From: Rebekah Robinson <rrobinson3542@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 28, 2021 8:30 PM
To: PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders
<allalders@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Support for a ban on cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi,
I was so happy to hear that Madison is considering a ban on cat declawing. This unnecessary, cruel procedure is outdated and inhumane. Please pass the ban.
Thank you,
Rebekah Robinson
District 9

From: Dr. Barbara Hodges <bhodges@hsvma.org>

Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 1:35 PM

To: PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

Cc: Susan Krebsbach, DVM <DrSusan@CreatureCounseling.com>; Pam Runquist <prunquist@hsvma.org>; pawproject@aol.com; Megan Nicholson <mnicholson@humanesociety.org>; Melissa Tedrowe (she/her) <mtedrowe@humanesociety.org>

Subject: VETERINARY SUPPORT for (File #67344), Prohibiting the Declawing of Cats in Madison, WI

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

29 November 2021

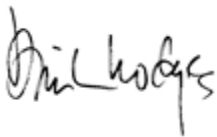
Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair and Members
Board of Health for Madison and Dane County
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., #507
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Chair Halverson and Members of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), I respectfully submit our organizational letter in strong support of prohibiting the declawing of cats in Madison (File #67344).

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our stance.

Sincerely,



Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA
Program Director, Advocacy & Outreach
707.678.4794

bhodges@hsvma.org

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association

www.hsvma.org



November 29, 2021

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Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair and Members
Board of Health of Madison and Dane County
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, #507
Madison, WI 53703

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for prohibiting declawing of cats in Madison, WI
(File #67344)**

Dear Chair Halverson and Members of the Board of Health of Madison and Dane County:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) to convey our strong support for ending the practice of declawing cats in Madison unless medically necessary to treat a physical illness, injury or disease. HSVMA is a national association of approximately 9,000 veterinary professionals—including 225 Wisconsin members—focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including companion cats.

Declawing is a painful, invasive surgery—a series of 10-18 separate amputations of the last bones of a cat's toes. Contrary to widely-held belief, declawing is not simply removal of nails. It is typically performed for convenience and to avoid possible damage to household items. However, declawing exposes the patient to risks of anesthesia, infection and blood loss, as well as chronic pain, nerve damage and lameness.

Research has repeatedly indicated a high post-operative complication rate of 50%. A 2001 study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* found that 33% of cats suffer at least one behavioral problem after declaw or tendonectomy surgery. The study showed that 17.9% of declawed cats had an increase in biting frequency or intensity and that 15.4% would not use a litter box. Tragically, these are the primary behavioral reasons why cats are relinquished to shelters, where many face euthanasia. A prominent 2017 study in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* found that 63% of declawed cats had painful bone fragments remaining after surgery. This led to further exacerbation of permanent side effects, including back pain and litter box avoidance.

Scratching is a normal feline behavior. It removes dead husks from cats' claws, marks territory, and stretches muscles. Where scratching may be a problem, HSVMA advocates the use of humane alternatives. These are better not only for the cats'

700 Professional Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 | P.O. Box 208, Davis, CA 95617
MD: t 301-548-7771 f 301-548-7726 | CA: t 530-759-8106 f 530-759-8116
hsvma.org info@hsvma.org



health, but also for cat owners who are often not informed about the common, expensive, frustrating and potentially dangerous consequences of this misguided surgical procedure. Sensible alternatives include well-selected scratching posts, alternative furniture selection or placement, nail trims, training, and nail caps.

HSVMA joins the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) in strongly opposing convenience declawing. Declawing has already been prohibited in dozens of countries worldwide. In 2019 New York became the first to implement a statewide ban prohibiting convenience declawing. If this declaw ban is enacted, Madison will join twelve other U.S. cities—Austin, TX; Denver, CO; St. Louis, MO; Pittsburgh, PA and Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Culver City and West Hollywood, CA—in prohibiting this inhumane surgical procedure.

We strongly urge you and your colleagues on the Board of Health of Madison and Dane County to demonstrate your humane leadership by prohibiting cat declawing in Madison. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Krebsbach, DVM
HSVMA Wisconsin State Representative

From: Hannah O'Neill <htoneill14@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 2:56 PM

To: PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org

Subject: Proposed Ordinance 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospital operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Thank you,
Hannah O'Neill

From: Marina Drake <intotheforest22@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 29, 2021 4:22 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: Support Cat Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders and Board of Health Members,
I'm writing in support of the cat declawing ban. Many countries, the state of NY, and several major U.S. cities now have banned declawing as both inhumane and unnecessary, and more and more veterinarians are refusing to do it. It's actually amputation and many cats suffer lifelong pain as a result; they can also develop aggression since they can't defend themselves. Once a common procedure, many veterinary professionals now oppose or advise against declawing. **The American Association of Feline Practitioners "strongly opposes" the practice as an elective procedure. The American Veterinary Medical Association discourages** elective declawing but leaves it up to veterinarians to decide what's best for the cat. Madison will be in the vanguard by banning declawing. I urge you to support the ban.

Sincerely,
Marina Drake
46 Dixon St
Madison WI 53704
608 241-3562

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"I see no logical argument for treating animals as if they don't suffer or as if they are without emotional needs. One cannot logically be disgusted by the slaughter of dogs or dolphins for meat but fine with the torture of pigs, cows and egg-laying hens. So given that our bodies can be beautifully nourished without animal products it only seems logical to be vegan." -- Karen Dawn
This website will help you get started: <http://www.howdoigovegan.com/>

~~~~~  
"Remember to be gentle with yourself and others. We are all children of chance, and none can say why some fields will blossom while others lie brown beneath the August sun. Care for those around you. Look past your differences. Their dreams are no less than yours, their choices no more easily made. And give, give in any way you can, of whatever you possess. To give is to love. To withhold is to wither. Careless for your harvest than for how it is shared, and your life will have meaning and your heart will have peace." --- Ken Nerburn

**From:** Sonia Kurhajetz <sokurh91@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, November 29, 2021 4:24 PM

**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org

**Subject:** SUPPORT BOARD OF HEALTH AMENDMENT #11

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As a proud cat mama of two, full clawed kitties, **Vote YES on 67344.**

Thank you!

Sonia Kurhajetz

1431 Williamson St, Madison, WI 53703

**From:** Hannah Stellrecht <stellrechth@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 11:48 AM

**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org

**Subject:** Madison Anti-Declaw Ordinance

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospital operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Sincerely,  
Hannah

**From:** Erin Lahowetz <erinrlahowetz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:10 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Ordinance 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am writing to show my strong support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. There should not be a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic, non-medical reasons. Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since these laws have gone into effect. There are hundreds of veterinary hospitals operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Additionally clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw, I strongly believe that we should follow in these organizations footsteps.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

I strongly hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** thepawproject@aol.com <thepawproject@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:44 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org  
**Subject:** In Support of Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344

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PLEASE FIND SUPPORT LETTER ATTACHED



Advocates for Animals • A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

November 29, 2021

City of Madison Common Council, Board of Alders  
210 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: In Support of Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344

Dear Board of Alders:

The Paw Project strongly supports Legislative File #67344, which will prohibit the inhumane and unnecessary practice of declawing in Madison. The Paw Project is a national nonprofit, veterinarian-run organization that has worked for 20 years to end declawing. Declawing is, most commonly, a series of amputations of all or most of the last bone of each of an animal's toes performed to prevent unwanted scratching. Declawing removes an integral part of an animal's anatomy and subjects animals to the risks of pain, infection, behavioral changes, and lifelong lameness. Safe and effective alternatives to declawing include simple training and other established deterrent methods. We urge you to vote YES on this proposed ordinance.

Declawing is common in the US and Canada, but it is illegal or considered unethical by veterinarians in most countries. The Paw Project partnered with New York Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal to pass the nation's first statewide declaw ban in July 2019. There are active anti-declaw bills in NJ, MA, PA, and CA in 2021. In recent years, public opinion regarding declawing has evolved due to educational campaigns and published evidence exposing the harmful effects of declawing. Eight cities in California, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, and Culver City, have prohibited declawing. Denver, CO, Austin, TX, Pittsburgh PA, and St. Louis, MO are other US cities to ban declawing. In the past three years, declawing has been prohibited in eight of ten Canadian provinces, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Prince Edward Island.

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) forbids its certified Cat Friendly practices from performing declaw surgery. The AAFP states, "There is no current peer-reviewed data definitively proving that cats with destructive behavior are more likely to be euthanized, abandoned or relinquished. The decision (by veterinarians) of whether or not to declaw should not be impacted by these considerations." VCA and Banfield Hospitals, which operate many clinics in Wisconsin, will not perform declawing, which they consider below standard of care."

Much evidence exists that behavioral changes following declawing can result in the relinquishment of animals to shelters. The CDC and NIH advise pet owners to "not declaw" their animals since declawing is not an effective means of preventing opportunistic disease in immunocompromised individuals.

In 2018, a peer-reviewed scientific article in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* reported that "declawing increases the risk of long-term or persistent pain, manifesting as unwanted behaviors such as inappropriate elimination (soiling/urinating outside of the litter box) and aggression/biting. This is not only detrimental to the cat (pain is a major welfare issue and these behaviors are common reasons for relinquishment of cats to shelters), but also has health implications for their human companions, as cat bites can be serious."

We proudly support this ordinance, which will greatly protect animals and will end declawing in Madison.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Conrad, DVM, Founder and Director, Paw Project

PO Box 445 Santa Monica, CA 90406 • info@pawproject.org • www.pawproject.org

**From:** H <blkpardus@tds.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 8:33 PM

**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org

**Subject:** Needless Amputations - Please Read

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Greetings Madison and Dane County Board of Health and Council Members-

Thank you in advance for your time in reading my email regarding Proposed Ordinance #67344 to end elective cat declawing; as a Dane County resident I am in strong support of this ordinance. Let's all just take a minute to look down at our hands, fingers outstretched. See that joint just below your fingernail? Now imagine having that whole piece of each your fingers cut off, no finger nail, no finger tips. This is what declawing is, amputating the last joint, not just simply 'removing a claw'. Now imagine living your life without having the tactile dexterity of your hands with those gone. Unable to navigate your world how you were meant to, or touching and feeling the warmth of your loved ones. When we do this to cats, we are selfishly depriving them of a multisensory factor of their life and arguably, what makes a cat 'a cat'.

If we are truly concerned about public health, then we need to be against declawing. A cat will give behavioral cues about their boundaries; some of which are subtle. However, if those indicators are not intelligible by the viewer, the claws are then used to communicate that a boundary is being crossed and needs to be respected. If you take that option away from them, they will learn that their next best option may be to bite. I think anyone in the public health community would agree that a cat bite is far worse than a scratch. For another reason, there is neuropathic pain endured post amputation that can cause litterbox misuse due to the pain of trying to dig or having those granules push on now tender areas. **Chronic pain is noted in 80% of people who have undergone amputations** (<https://www.amputee-coalition.org/chronic-pain/>). Also, if a cat can't scent mark through normal scratching behavior on scratching posts (they have scent glands in their feet) they may choose to scent mark in other ways, possibly by urination or defecation outside litterboxes. This can lead to owners getting angry and upset at this occurring, this then increases stress and induced fear in the household, which again may illicit aggression. Whose life is this benefiting?

There is just no excuse or reason for this to still be in practice. This day and age there are ample resources available to deter any unwanted behavior such as videos online, video behaviorist consultations, books, cheap cat furniture/scratching alternatives, and behavior modifiers you can readily search and buy off of amazon. How is surgically modifying/mutilating an animal still a standard practice? Would we be ok with an owner electing to remove all of their dog's teeth because they nipped at their child who pulled its tail? Or how about amputating a hind leg of a dog to keep it from jumping onto the bed? Where do we draw the line, as the above examples as well as declawing, are all major surgical modifications to an animal's natural state for the mere 'perceived'



convenience of modifying a behavior.

We need to stop looking at cats like material objects within our households that we can choose to alter to our whim out of mere convenience, and finally start to look at them like the family members they are, that also experience pain, fear, contentment, and also enjoy play just as we do.

Anti-declawing is a worldwide movement, it is banned in entire nations and countries including Europe, Germany, Brazil, Australia, and many others. It is catching and gaining ground in the United States as well with it now banned in the entire state of New York amongst many other cities throughout the country. Madison and Dane County is a great progressive place to live and is why I have resided here in Dane county for the last 28 years. I strongly urge you to vote yes on this ban, to prove not only to our country, but to the world, that we are leaders and indeed one of the best places to live as we respect and put our animal's welfare over materialistic convenience.

Thank you for your time and support in this matter-  
Holly Schroeder



\*and sincere thanks from my feline friend, Lumos.

**From:** Todd Tams <Todd.Tams@vca.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 3:29 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344

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November 30, 2021

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 507  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Proposed Cat Declaw Ban #67344

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of proposed ordinance 67344. I am the chief medical officer for external affairs at Mars Veterinary Health, which operates VCA, Banfield, and BluePearl animal hospitals across the country. I have practiced nearly 45 years and have seen many progressive changes in veterinary medicine over the years. I am a firm believer that the time has come to stop all elective declaw procedures in the United States. I am happy to have lead the decision by VCA, in early 2020, to stop offering declawing procedures in any of our 900 hospitals across 45 states, including in Wisconsin. It was a decision based on current evidence and we reached it after having discussions with our veterinarians all around the country.

Our decision has been embraced and we have not looked back. Our clients are happy knowing that the well-being of their animals is our top priority, our staff are happy knowing that they will not be participating in the potential harming of animals and that they are working in hospitals that follow evidence-based medicine, and our veterinarians are happier knowing that they will no longer feel pressured by a small minority of clients into performing procedures that they are uncomfortable with. Our hospital staff have become well versed on educating pet guardians about how to live with cats that have their claws and about the potential ramifications of declawing which can include chronic pain (paws and back pain), aggressive behavior including biting, and inappropriate soiling. A scientific paper documenting these sequelae was published in 2018 (Pain and adverse behavior in declawed cats; Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery, Vol. 20(4), 280-288).

Declawing is an unnecessary practice. A growing number of cities around the country has either banned declawing or is strongly considering it. Contrary to what some people have thought would happen, there is no evidence that stopping declawing will lead to more relinquishment of cats at animal shelters. To the contrary, the

relinquishment numbers are actually higher due to biting and inappropriate soiling/avoidance of litter box use. Declaw bans first went in to effect in our city of Los Angeles in 2009 (Hollywood, Santa Monica, West Los Angeles) and since then the ban has widened to include all of Greater Los Angeles.

We have found that some clients seek us out because of our no declaw position; they know they can trust us with their animals because we aren't doing unnecessary and harmful surgeries on our patients. We call on all veterinarians to stop declawing cats. We hope that all veterinarians will choose their patients' well-being over profits. We must always focus on the wellbeing of our patients and prevent animal suffering to the best of our ability.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important topic and the proposed legislation in Madison. Please feel free to reach out to me if I can answer any questions for you or be helpful in any other way.

Respectfully,

Todd R. Tams, DVM, DACVIM  
[Todd.tams@vca.com](mailto:Todd.tams@vca.com)

**From:** Mariah Smith <m\_smith\_007@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Ordinance 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am sending this email in support of banning feline declaws in the city of Madison. As a veterinary professional, I have seen first hand the affects this procedure has on the overall quality of life of cats who have been declawed. This includes chronic pain due to arthritis of which many likely go untreated because it is sometimes difficult for owners/pet parents to decipher pain response in cats. For this reason, I am in support of this ordinance that would ban declawing in Madison, WI.

Thank you,

Mariah Smith, CVT

**From:** Mike Kohn <[yellowlabone@gmail.com](mailto:yellowlabone@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 8:34 AM

**To:** PH BOH Support <[PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com](mailto:PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com)>; All Alders <[allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:allalders@cityofmadison.com)>

**Subject:** Support Ordinance

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Dane County and Madison Boards of Health, also City of Madison Alders:

I strongly support Ordinance 67344.

Sincerely,

Mike Kohn DVM

Petinary Clinic

Madison, WI 53703

[yellowlabone@gmail.com](mailto:yellowlabone@gmail.com)

[www.petinarymadisonwi.com](http://www.petinarymadisonwi.com)

**From:** Jean Cudnohfsky <jeancudnohfsky@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 9:39 AM

**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support Ordinance 67344. Please put an end to this barbaric practice.

Thank you,  
Jean Cudnohfsky  
1023 Sherman Ave  
Madison, WI 53703

**From:** Megan Nicholson <mnicholson@humanesociety.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** HSUS in support of Ordinance 67344  
**Importance:** High

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Chair Halverson and Members of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County,

As Wisconsin State Director of the Humane Society of the United States and Madison resident, I respectfully submit the attached organizational letter in support of the proposed ordinance to prohibit declawing of cats in Madison (#67344).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Megan

**Megan Nicholson**

Wisconsin State Director, State Affairs  
(608) 400-5464  
[mnicholson@humanesociety.org](mailto:mnicholson@humanesociety.org)  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)





**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1255 23rd Street, NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20037

P 202-452-1100  
F 202-778-6132

[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

December 1, 2021

Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair and Members  
Board of Health for Madison and Dane County  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Support for Ordinance 67344 (Alder Lemmer and Alder Carter) - prohibiting declawing of cats in Madison, WI

Dear Chair Halverson and Members,

The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, strongly supports passage of a ban on elective cat declawing, which would end the inhumane and unnecessary practice of declawing cats in Madison, Wisconsin. Convenience declawing of cats is already illegal in New York State and in eight California cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, the city and county of Denver, Colorado, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Austin, Texas. Australia, Brazil, much of Europe and many Canadian provinces also prohibit non-therapeutic declawing.

Declawing is a medical procedure with serious implications that involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe. If performed on a human being, it would be equivalent to cutting off each finger (and toe) at the last knuckle. It is an unnecessary surgery, most often performed to address convenience issues such as problem scratching of household furniture and it provides no medical benefit whatsoever to the cat.

Declawing of cats is not fully condoned by any veterinary medical association. A multitude of veterinarians across Wisconsin and the country refuse to perform this procedure on ethical grounds, citing that it is an invasive convenience surgery. In the last few years both [the American Animal Hospital Association \(AAHA\)](#) and [American Association of Feline Practitioners \(AAFP\)](#) strengthened their position statements against declawing, with the AAHA now asserting that it "strongly opposes the declawing of domestic cats." The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) opposes any surgical procedure—including declawing—done solely for the convenience of the caregiver and yielding no medical benefit to the companion animal.

This surgery can be extremely painful and may lead to life-long health risks and complications, including behavioral abnormalities such as litter-box aversion and increased biting. These conditions often lead to owner surrender of declawed cats and place financial burdens on already-strained shelters and often, the taxpayer.





On behalf of our members and supporters in Madison and the state of Wisconsin, we strongly urge you to support passage of Ordinance 67344 which will protect the health and well-being of family pets and allow Madison to shine as a leader in humane values.

Respectfully,

Megan Nicholson  
Wisconsin State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States

Resident of Madison, Wisconsin

**From:** Lynne Pitts <mitymous1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Board of Health Agenda Item 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I am extremely happy to see this ban on declawing cats being addressed in Madison, and am incredibly in favor of its passing.

Declawing cats is a very serious, crippling, amputation of every toe on the animal's paws, leading to chronic pain, arthritis, deformity, and stress for the animal.

In general it makes them anxious and fearful as they have been deprived of natural defenses. It affects their gait; it limits their ability to stretch and strengthen their muscles.

And worst of all it does not keep them out of shelters; because of the behavior issues (from being anxious and fearful) what would have been a sweet loving pet is often timid and skittish and sometimes aggressive, resulting in - being dumped at a shelter.

Thank you very much for considering this ban, and helping Madison to lead the way in joining with so many other compassionate, enlightened states and countries!

Respectfully,  
Lynne Pitts  
414 Bailey Dr., Madison, WI 53718  
603-366-6363

**From:** Muhammad-Kee, Jenice <[muhammad-keej@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:muhammad-keej@stlouis-mo.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Lemmer, Lindsay  
**Cc:** Christine Ingrassia  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Ordinance 67344 - Proposed Cat Declaw Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning Ms. Lemmer, I have attached a letter of support from Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia. Have a good day.

--



***Jenice Muhammad-Kee***  
***Executive Secretary***

Board of Aldermen Office  
St. Louis City Hall, Rm #230  
1200 Market Street  
St. Louis, Mo 63103-2873  
Wards 6,11,16,21  
Office (314) 589-6813  
Fax (314) 622-4273  
Email: [muhammad-keej@stlouis-mo.gov](mailto:muhammad-keej@stlouis-mo.gov)



Christine Ingrassia  
Aldерwoman

BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
CITY OF SAINT LOUIS  
MISSOURI

6<sup>th</sup> Ward

December 1, 2021

Board of Health for Madison and Dane County  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 507  
Madison, WI 53703  
Sent via email to: [district3@cityofmadison.com](mailto:district3@cityofmadison.com)

Re: Proposed Cat Declaw Ban

Members of the Board,

I am writing in support of proposed ordinance 67344. I introduced the City of St. Louis' ordinance to prohibit cat declawing, which was approved overwhelmingly by my colleagues in 2019. Additionally, I was able to partner with St. Louis County to help pass their local law on this issue last year with bipartisan and broad support.

As I'm sure you're aware, many times opponents speculate that declawing bans result in an increase of cats surrendered to shelters, where a likely outcome is euthanasia. Fortunately, my colleagues were persuaded by current data and research, which indicates that relinquishment of cats to shelters has consistently decreased in cities, states, and provinces having declaw bans. Other places that have implemented declaw bans include Los Angeles, San Francisco, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Santa Monica, Culver City, West Hollywood, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and the State of New York. None have reported increases in relinquishment.

Research has also documented well that declawing is an abhorrent practice. It is a mutilation of the cat – amputation of a portion of its digits to remove the claws. The result, regardless of the technique used, is a significant risk for life-long physical harm and behavioral changes, including biting and litter box avoidance. Published evidence indicates that declawed cats are more likely to bite than non-declawed cats, so a prohibition of declawing helps protect people, particularly the most medically vulnerable, from unnecessary risks. Reports from the Mayo Clinic state that one-third of cat-bite victims, who present to its emergency departments, require hospitalization.

In my effort to ban declawing, I was privileged to have the support of national animal protection organizations such as the Paw Project, the Humane Society of the United States, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, and of local animal advocacy organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on cat declawing and the proposed legislation before you in Madison. Please feel free to contact me with questions, or if I can be of assistance in any other way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Ingrassia".

Christine Ingrassia  
Aldерwoman, 6<sup>th</sup> Ward

Room 230, City Hall • 1200 Market Street, St Louis, MO 63103 • Office (314) 622-3287

**From:** Lindsey Dalton <lindseydaltonmacdonald@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:34 PM  
**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support of proposed cat declaw ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing in support of the proposed ban on cat declawing in the City of Madison. I am a resident of Middleton, but I frequently use pet-related services in Madison, like buying pet supplies from Mad Cat and Earthwise. I also use UW Veterinarian.

Cat declawing is cruel, and causes unnecessary pain and long-term negative effects on cats. Many vets are strongly opposed to it. Declawing is not performed in most countries of the world. Cats who are declawed are far more likely to bite, and, according to the Mayo Clinic, 1 in 3 people who receive a cat bite require hospitalization. It isn't just cruel to cats, declawing is also harmful to humans.

There are countless non-invasive alternatives to declawing that don't risk the health of cats or humans.

Please pass this proposed ban on elective declawing for the welfare of both cats and humans.

Thank you,

Lindsey Dalton  
Middleton, WI

From: E <amplexed@tds.net>

Sent: Wednesday, December 1, 2021 4:55 PM

To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Paw Project <info@pawproject.org>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>

Subject: SUPPORT IRREPROACHABLE Ordinance 67344!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon Board of Health, Alders, and activists,

I am looking forward to this legislation finally outlawing the completely unnecessary and barbaric practice of declawing our feline companions passing this evening. It is a science of good and evil, in which a rational approach to ethics becomes possible once we realize that questions of right and wrong are really questions about the happiness and suffering of sentient creatures. If we are in a position to affect the happiness or suffering of others, we have ethical responsibilities to them - and many of these responsibilities are so grave as to become matters of civil and criminal law. The time for this is long overdue!

Who benefits? Who is burdened? And who does not have a seat at the table? There are clearly right answers and wrong answers, and this ordinance is beyond reproach.

Thank you Alder Lindsay Lemmer for spearheading this effort and I look forward to supporting a Dane County ordinance change as well!

Erik Anderson

**From:** Sarah J <sarah@commcat.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 3, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for #67344 declaw ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear City of Madison Alders,

Community Cat, Inc. is extremely supportive of the proposed ban on elective declawing (onychectomy), and we very strongly encourage your support as well.

Community Cat is a nonprofit cat rescue and advocacy group based in south-central Wisconsin, including the Madison area. We focus on cats who are at high risk of euthanasia elsewhere and are considered less adoptable: seniors, disabled, hospice, and special needs. We have saved over 1,700 cats since we were founded in 2009. Every cat adopted from our rescue has a stipulation in their adoption contract which prohibits declawing. We are firm on this requirement, for several reasons:

- Declawing is a surgery with serious complications, not something to be lightly undertaken for human convenience. The surgery involves the amputation of the third digit of a cat's toe. For you and I, it is like removing the tips of our fingers at the last knuckle. Multiple studies have shown that short-term complications following declawing occur in as many as 50% of cases, and include pain, lameness, hemorrhage, decreased appetite, personality change, infection, lethargy, and cystitis. Long-term complications after declawing include claw regrowth, lameness, chronic pain, sore paws, flexor tendon contraction, and increased biting. Up to 10% of cats can suffer claw regrowth- imagine walking around all day with sharp pebbles in your shoes!
- Cats are much more likely to develop behavioral issues after being declawed, such as litter box avoidance and biting. Anecdotally, our volunteers have experienced these behavioral issues on a much higher basis when caring for declawed cats.
- The demand for cats that have been declawed, in our experience, is minimal. We believe there has been a significant shift of preferences away from declawed cats in the last ten years. Today, people are more aware of what a declawing surgery entails and what complications may occur, and are far less willing to submit their cat(s) to the procedure. Rarely do we receive an adoption request for a declawed cat or from a potential adopter who expresses interest in declawing.
- Cats are easily trained to use designated scratching posts or pads. They are creatures of habit, and once their scratching behavior is redirected in a positive manner, they will continue to use the human's preferred location for scratching.
- The act of scratching is an important physical and psychological act for cats. It allows them to stretch, strengthen their muscles, exfoliate the outer layers of the claws, and mark their territory. Yes, cats have interdigital glands and leave their scent when scratching! (Us humans don't have noses canny enough to smell it.) Exercising and marking territory are essential for the cat psyche; it helps them feel safe and provides mental stimulation. This is why even a declawed cat will still attempt to scratch.

We would love to see a ban on elective declawing in Madison, and believe passing this ordinance will bring our city forward in regards to companion animal welfare.

Thank you,

Sarah Close

Vice President

[sarah@commcat.org](mailto:sarah@commcat.org)

[www.commcat.org](http://www.commcat.org)



**From:** Ash Collins <ashcollins180@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, December 6, 2021 9:11 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** In support of 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear alders,

I am writing you in support of the ban on cat declawing in Madison! This is an optional and purely cosmetic surgery that causes pain and behavioral issues in cats, sometimes resulting in surrender or euthanasia. Please protect the cats in our community and support this ban.

Thank you,  
Ash Collins  
Madison, WI

From: Susan Ballard <susaninwis@hotmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 10:04 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Dec 7 meeting. Agenda item 43, prohibit cat declaw procedure

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Alders,

As a lifelong cat owner and having been licensed and worked as a veterinary technician, I support prohibiting cat declaw procedures in Madison. (Agenda #43 on the 12-7-21 agenda). This is a long overdue action to eliminate a cruel, painful, and unnecessary procedure.

Sincerely,

Susan Ballard

1101 Northport Drive

Madison, WI 53704

**From:** renee\_blake@yahoo.com <renee\_blake@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Monday, December 6, 2021 5:03 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** [All Alders] Stop declawing

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** Beth Blakeman

**Address:** 2304 Beryl Court NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

**Email:** [renee\\_blake@yahoo.com](mailto:renee_blake@yahoo.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** No, do not contact me

**Message:**

Did you know that a cat without its claws is never again able to fully regain its balance? It's cruel. Like you without your toes. Put an end to declawing altogether. They also can't protect themselves. Suppose they escape their house one day and meet up with an unfriendly animal? If you love them, you would want them to be protected. Say no to declawing for all time. Teach people to gently clip front claws.

From: Tom Bach <tombach@charter.net>  
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 9:02 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Cat declaw proposal

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Alders,

I am a small animal veterinarian in Madison (co- started Lakeview Veterinary Clinic on Monroe Street), an adjunct professor at the UW-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, and the most recent past president of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association. I have been in practice for over 27 years and am speaking as a member of Madison's small animal clinical community.

I strongly support the effort to make cat declaws illegal in Madison unless there is a medical reason. I recently sent out a survey to area veterinarians to get feedback on this proposal. 47 veterinarians replied. The most common reasons this procedure is performed in Madison practices is split fairly evenly among 4 categories (landlord requirement, avoid scratching of healthy cat owners, avoid scratching of health compromised cat owners, and avoid damage to owner's furniture). A cat declaw is literally a disfiguring procedure removing a bone from each digit. The cat will then bear weight for the remainder of its life on the joint of all those removed digits. There is no strong argument to put a cat through this procedure for any of the reasons listed by area veterinarians. Even the CDC does not advocate declawing cats in the homes of HIV and other immune compromised people.

This is, unfortunately, a subject that my profession has been unwilling to take a unified leadership position against. My practice stopped performing this procedure about 10 years ago as have many other practices in the city. However, we are in a service industry and some feel compelled to continue to offer this to their clients. And if it is on the menu, clients will continue to order it and feel that it must be a reasonable and humane procedure because their veterinarian is willing to do it.

I think this proposal will force our state association to have a thoughtful discussion on declawing. I hope it will have an thoughtful impact on Madison landlords. They should not have the authority to make medical decisions for the family pets of Madison residents.

Tom Bach, DVM

**From:** CYNTHIA ZOOK <czook380@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:57 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Legislative File 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Re: December 07, 2021, [Proposed Ordinance 67344](#).

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is an amputation and de-knuckling, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions, e.g., cancer). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

**I have friends in Sweden, Germany and England where declawing is illegal and they cannot fathom that mutilation of a cat's toes is done for human convenience.**

***Dogs that dig in the yard do not have their toes amputated to prevent this behavior that is natural to them, rather, they can be trained with positive reinforcement, as cats can be trained to scratch surfaces designated for them.***

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospitals operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

I hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities in Wisconsin and in the US.

Respectfully,  
Cynthia Zook, Wisconsin Resident

From: Diane Rogers <diane@idme.consulting>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:57 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Support of declawing ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello

I fully support the agenda topic of cat declawing ban - it is cruel and illegal in many other parts of the world.

Regards,

Diane Rogers (Fitchburg resident)

**From:** Colin Steinke <colin@madisoncatproject.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Madison Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning,

I am writing to issue our organization's support of the declawing ban in front of the common council this evening.

Declawing is a procedure that we've always opposed and thankfully it's much less common than it has been in the past. It's been illegal in many European countries for decades, and has been banned in several US cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, and Austin, as well as the entire state of New York. Let's help Madison join that list and do our part to make the world a better place for cats.

I am happy to answer questions. Our Medical Director will also be registering to speak this evening.

Sincerely,

Colin Steinke

Executive Director, Madison Cat Project

--

**Colin Steinke**  
Executive Director  
Madison Cat Project  
608.535.9550

Saving Cats' Lives Through Community Solutions



From: Mary Unmuth Yockey <unmuthmj@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:59 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Declawing cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello. I support the proposal that would make it illegal to declaw cats in Madison. Thank you. 🐱

Mary Unmuth Yockey

Mary U-Y 🍕👉

**From:** Isaac Zaman <iszaman2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:59 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Declawing is a horrid practice

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My name is Isaac zaman and I want to point out that declawing literally disables cats to the point where they cant stretch their bodies and can cause long term psychological damage if done too late in the cats life. I would say its analogous to cutting off a baby's bug toes so they learn to walk differently. It's a disgusting practice and it should be banned everywhere.

Thank you for listening.

From: Frayne Born <frayne@chorus.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:59 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Declawing cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please vote to make it illegal to declaw cats.

Frayne Born  
Middleton, Wi.

**From:** Vicki Harris <vj.harris@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Against Declawing Cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Here's what the US Humane Society states:

"Medical drawbacks to declawing include pain in the paw, infection, tissue necrosis (tissue death), lameness, and back pain. Removing claws changes the way a cat's foot meets the ground and can cause pain similar to wearing an uncomfortable pair of shoes. There can also be a regrowth of improperly removed claws, nerve damage, and bone spurs.

For several days after surgery, shredded newspaper is typically used in the litter box to prevent litter from irritating declawed feet. This unfamiliar litter substitute, accompanied by pain when scratching in the box, may lead cats to stop using the litter box. Some cats may become biters because they no longer have their claws for defense."

I have seen a declawed cat walk, it is not normal. Please ban cat declawing in Madison.

vjh

**From:** Jennifer Lamb <lambj42@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:**

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please ban declawing of cats in the City of Madison. This practice is now recognized as harmful to cats by many national organizations and other countries.

Thanks

Jennifer Lamb  
[lambj42@gmail.com](mailto:lambj42@gmail.com)  
(608) 213-0937  
>^..^<

**From:** Natasha Harrell <nharr001@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:30 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Make it illegal to declaw cats in Madison.

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,  
I want to express my support of the proposal to make it illegal to declaw cats in Madison. Please help put an end to this inhumane practice.  
Thank you.  
-Natasha Harrell

From: Allison Galbraith <allisonggalbraith@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:31 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good morning,

I would like to voice my unending support for a full-stop no exceptions ban on declawing. Thank you.

**From:** Brook Soltvedt <soltvedtbrook@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** In support of the new ordinance banning declawing of cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear members of the Madison Common Council:

I write to support the proposed ban on declawing cats except when therapeutically necessary (creation of Section 23.66 of the Madison General Ordinances).

I am not a veterinarian. I share my home with two cats, both fully clawed. Yes, the claws can be painful. Yes, they cause damage to fabrics. But, the surgery can cause lifelong disability and pain that our cats can't tell us about. I don't believe humans have the right to deliberately disfigure and maim another creature for our own convenience. Our animal companions are not accessories for us to modify for our convenience. Nail trimming and training can both be used to prevent or mitigate damage from scratching.

Humane societies around the globe stand opposed to declawing. Many large cities in the U.S., as well as the state of New York, have banned declawing. It is illegal in at least 20 countries. It's past time for Madison to do the same.

Thank you,

Brook Chase Soltvedt  
(she/her/hers)  
1034 Waban Hill  
Madison, WI 53711



From: colinlancashirephotography@gmail.com <colinlancashirephotography@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:39 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Support banning Declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good Morning!

I hope this email finds you well.

I wanted to cast my support for the measure to ban declawing cats in Madison. As you know, there are numerous reasons to ban declawing and I appreciate Madison helping lead our country to implement this ban.

Thank you,

Colin Lancashire

**From:** Heather Huber <Heather\_Huber@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda item 43, declawing ban - support

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders,

I live in Alder Abbas's district and am writing to give my strong support for a cat declawing ban in Madison.

I have volunteered at the Dane County Humane Society for 7 years and have seen the many reasons cats end up there. Litter box issues are often a reason and if the problem can't be corrected can make a cat unadoptable (this means the cat will be euthanized.) Biting behavior can also land a cat in a shelter. Both of these undesirable behaviors have many potential causes, but declawing and the subsequent pain and lack of defenses are one reason they develop.

For more info on this, you can see the Humane Society's information on declawing: <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/declawing-cats-far-worse-manicure>

I have also seen cats with botched declaw procedures, requiring second, corrective surgeries. It's horrific. Cats hide their pain well, so for too long people have believed this is a quick and harmless procedure.

I also hope Madison Common Council will address the landlords that require declawing in their lease agreements. These rental policies must end. Landlords are foolishly trading their fear of claw marks (which can be mitigated by nail caps and providing appropriate scratching surfaces) for cats more apt to pee on the walls and floors, a far more difficult mess to repair.

Thank you for looking out for the cats!

Heather Huber  
2742 Coolidge Street  
Madison, WI 53704  
608-628-3096

**From:** Elizabeth Hanus <elizabeth\_hanus@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:46 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Agenda item #43 (67344)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Thank you so much for considering the ban on cat declaw. This is a painful, unnecessary surgery that was started in a time that we did not understand the terrible ramifications. Please, please help to move Madison forward by banning this surgery.

Most appreciated,  
Elizabeth Hanus

**From:** Lynn Sterling <lm\_sterling@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 10:52 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Ban on cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

My husband and I support the proposal for a ban on cat declawing in the city of Madison and encourage all alderpersons to vote in favor of said proposal. This procedure is a form of torture. Many thanks to Mark Furman for always keeping his aldermanic constituents updated.

Lynn Sterling and Glenn Kimmel

**From:** Danalyn <danalynrayner@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:10 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Cat declawing should be an option

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I don't like declawing but I've had one cat out of 5 over my lifetime that would not stop scratching all the furniture regardless of counterefforts. We had her declawed and then she had a great life.

I've had toenails pulled out for ingrown toenails and it wasn't great but it was tolerable.

Thank you,

Dani

Danalyn Harper Rayner

**From:** angelrainstorm74@gmail.com <angelrainstorm74@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:20 AM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** [All Alders] ban declawing

**Recipient:** All Alders

**Name:** MICHELLE CULVER

**Address:** 416 W 11TH AVE, Oshkosh, WI 54902-6414

**Email:** [angelrainstorm74@gmail.com](mailto:angelrainstorm74@gmail.com)

**Would you like us to contact you?** Yes, by email

**Message:**

Imagine cutting your fingers off at the first joint. Its very painful and takes away from their nature to stretch their legs.

**From:** Lynn Z <lynnzlodi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** declawing ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please support the declawing ban . This is a horribly barbaric procedure that vets do not truthfully explain to clients. WOULD YOU EVER DECLAW A DOG? Let's stop torturing cats. THEY've done nothing to deserve this horrible fate. It disfigures their paws and cripples them from ever walking normally again. Cats are famously stoic. They do not complain like a dog would. Let's Be Progressive like Denver and Austin, SanFrancisco, and others sure to follow. P L E A S E

--

*LynnZiegler*  
*Please don't breed or buy while shelter pets die.....*

From: James Green <jagreen3@sbcglobal.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:28 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: declawing ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Please support the declawing ban being voted on tonight!

Thank you,

Nancy Green



**From:** Barbara Severson <barbara64@ymail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:42 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** I support Madison ban on declawing!

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am a lifelong cat lover and currently a volunteer for the Dane County Humane Society and Madison Cat Project. I **strongly support** the ban on declawing that you are voting on tonight (agenda item **#43**)! This mostly unnecessary amputation can cause cats severe pain and health and/or behavior issues for the rest of their lives. Many cats are even abandoned or surrendered by their owners after having this surgery because of these complications. And there are so many easy alternatives that responsible cat owners can use to prevent damage from scratching.

I have lived in Madison or the Madison area most of my life and would be so proud if we could be added to the list of cities who have banned cat declawing surgery.

Please **vote yes** on this ban!!

Thank you,

Barb Severson

**From:** Nicole Rademacher <nrrademacher6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda item #43 (67344)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support *to ban cat declaw (onychectomy) procedures* in Madison, WI. Evidence based veterinary medicine has continued to demonstrate the harm of declawing cats. As a six-year resident of the city of Madison, clawed cat owner, and fourth year medical student with a firm belief in following scientific evidence, I believe our city should follow the advice of veterinary experts and vote to ban declawing in our city. I have attached a scientific manuscript citing the negative outcomes of the procedure for your reference. Numerous other progressive cities and the state of New York have already set the precedent in doing so. Thank you for your time and service.

Respectfully,

Nicole Rademacher



Onychectomy; pain  
and adverse events i

**From:** Mark Komurka <mk302cid@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Declawing Cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

**Please** vote yes to prevent declawing cats....inhumane & not necessary. They need them like we need our fingers. If done, they have no way to defend themselves!  
Again "**Please vote "Yes"**".

Sincerely, Mark Komurka President of "**The Mark Komurka Animal Welfare Charitable Foundation**". A non-profit 501 (C) 3

**From:** Zoe <loujanae31@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** In Support of Agenda Item 43

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I would like to express my support for the proposal that would make it illegal to declaw cats in the city of Madison. Declawing is a procedure that I have always opposed, and I'm thankful that it is less common than it was in the past, but I am hopeful we will move towards making it entirely illegal.

Thank you for your time,  
Zoe Andraska

**From:** Timothy Nelson <strangleromen@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:10 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please ban declawing! It is inhumane and cruel!

Tim Nelson  
1106 Tomahawk Trail  
Madison, Wi 53705

**From:** heather hook <heather7686@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:11 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please vote to ban declawing for cats in Madison. It is cruel and painful and can give the cat long term issues.

Thank you,  
Heather Hook

From: Ann Schroeder <annschroeder5@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:23 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Support legislation file 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I ask you to support Legistar file 67344 which would prohibit declawing procedures for cats. As you know, this procedure cuts off about a third of the bone sections in their paws. It can lead to debilitating pain as well as things like litter box issues that can cause these animals to be abandoned or difficult to adopt.

Thank you.

Ann Schroeder  
Madison, WI

From: Kathleen Christiansen <hawktalk50@tds.net>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:25 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Cat declawing at tonight's meeting

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I have been a volunteer in Cat Rescue for over 30 years. I am writing to help give a voice to cats who have no voice. I support making declawing illegal in Madison.

Thank you.

Kathleen Christiansen



**From:** Dr. Barbara Hodges <bhodges@hsvma.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:29 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>; info@pawproject.org

**Cc:** Susan Krebsbach, DVM <DrSusan@CreatureCounseling.com>; Pam Runquist <prunquist@hsvma.org>; Megan Nicholson <mnicholson@humanesociety.org>

**Subject:** VETERINARY SUPPORT for Madison, WI Declaw Ban: Ordinance 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

7 December 2021

Dear Madison Common Council:

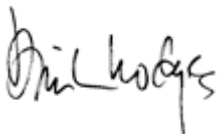
On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), I respectfully submit our organizational letter in strong support of prohibiting the declawing of cats in Madison (File #67344).

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like more information about our stance.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barbara

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Hodges, DVM, MBA  
Program Director, Advocacy & Outreach  
707.678.4794

[bhodges@hsvma.org](mailto:bhodges@hsvma.org)

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association

[www.hsvma.org](http://www.hsvma.org)



November 29, 2021

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Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair and Members  
Board of Health of Madison and Dane County  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, #507  
Madison, WI 53703

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for prohibiting declawing of cats in Madison, WI  
(File #67344)**

Dear Chair Halverson and Members of the Board of Health of Madison and Dane County:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) to convey our strong support for ending the practice of declawing cats in Madison unless medically necessary to treat a physical illness, injury or disease. HSVMA is a national association of approximately 9,000 veterinary professionals—including 225 Wisconsin members—focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including companion cats.

Declawing is a painful, invasive surgery—a series of 10-18 separate amputations of the last bones of a cat's toes. Contrary to widely-held belief, declawing is not simply removal of nails. It is typically performed for convenience and to avoid possible damage to household items. However, declawing exposes the patient to risks of anesthesia, infection and blood loss, as well as chronic pain, nerve damage and lameness.

Research has repeatedly indicated a high post-operative complication rate of 50%. A 2001 study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* found that 33% of cats suffer at least one behavioral problem after declaw or tendonectomy surgery. The study showed that 17.9% of declawed cats had an increase in biting frequency or intensity and that 15.4% would not use a litter box. Tragically, these are the primary behavioral reasons why cats are relinquished to shelters, where many face euthanasia. A prominent 2017 study in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* found that 63% of declawed cats had painful bone fragments remaining after surgery. This led to further exacerbation of permanent side effects, including back pain and litter box avoidance.

Scratching is a normal feline behavior. It removes dead husks from cats' claws, marks territory, and stretches muscles. Where scratching may be a problem, HSVMA advocates the use of humane alternatives. These are better not only for the cats'

700 Professional Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 | P.O. Box 208, Davis, CA 95617  
MD: t 301-548-7771 f 301-548-7726 | CA: t 530-759-8106 f 530-759-8116  
hsvma.org info@hsvma.org



health, but also for cat owners who are often not informed about the common, expensive, frustrating and potentially dangerous consequences of this misguided surgical procedure. Sensible alternatives include well-selected scratching posts, alternative furniture selection or placement, nail trims, training, and nail caps.

HSVMA joins the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) in strongly opposing convenience declawing. Declawing has already been prohibited in dozens of countries worldwide. In 2019 New York became the first to implement a statewide ban prohibiting convenience declawing. If this declaw ban is enacted, Madison will join twelve other U.S. cities—Austin, TX; Denver, CO; St. Louis, MO; Pittsburgh, PA and Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Culver City and West Hollywood, CA—in prohibiting this inhumane surgical procedure.

We strongly urge you and your colleagues on the Board of Health of Madison and Dane County to demonstrate your humane leadership by prohibiting cat declawing in Madison. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Susan Krebsbach, DVM  
HSVMA Wisconsin State Representative

**From:** Megan Nicholson <mnicholson@humanesociety.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:42 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** HSUS in support of Ordinance 67344 - Agenda Item 43 - Cat Declaw Ban  
**Importance:** High

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Members of the City of Madison Common Council,

Attached you will find our letter of support submitted to the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County on December 1<sup>st</sup>. On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our numerous local supporters, please accept this letter in support of Agenda item #43 – Ordinance 67344 - to ban the elective declawing of cats. We were pleased to hear the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County voted unanimously to move this forward. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Best regards,

Megan

**Megan Nicholson**

Wisconsin State Director, State Affairs  
(608) 400-5464  
[mnicholson@humanesociety.org](mailto:mnicholson@humanesociety.org)  
[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)



The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's most effective animal protection organization, fighting for all animals for more than 60 years. To support our work, please make a [monthly donation](#), give in [another way](#) or [volunteer](#).



**From:** Megan Nicholson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 1, 2021 11:31 AM  
**To:** [phbohsupport@cityofmadison.com](mailto:phbohsupport@cityofmadison.com)  
**Cc:** [allalders@cityofmadison.com](mailto:allalders@cityofmadison.com)  
**Subject:** HSUS in support of Ordinance 67344  
**Importance:** High

Dear Chair Halverson and Members of the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County,

As Wisconsin State Director of the Humane Society of the United States and Madison resident, I respectfully submit the attached organizational letter in support of the proposed ordinance to prohibit declawing of cats in Madison (#67344).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best regards,

Megan

**Megan Nicholson**

Wisconsin State Director, State Affairs

(608) 400-5464

[mnicholson@humanesociety.org](mailto:mnicholson@humanesociety.org)

[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)





1255 23rd Street, NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, DC 20037

P 202-452-1100  
F 202-778-6132

[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

December 1, 2021

Dr. Jerry Halverson, Chair and Members  
Board of Health for Madison and Dane County  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Support for Ordinance 67344 (Alder Lemmer and Alder Carter) - prohibiting declawing of cats in Madison, WI

Dear Chair Halverson and Members,

The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, strongly supports passage of a ban on elective cat declawing, which would end the inhumane and unnecessary practice of declawing cats in Madison, Wisconsin. Convenience declawing of cats is already illegal in New York State and in eight California cities, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, the city and county of Denver, Colorado, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Austin, Texas. Australia, Brazil, much of Europe and many Canadian provinces also prohibit non-therapeutic declawing.

Declawing is a medical procedure with serious implications that involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe. If performed on a human being, it would be equivalent to cutting off each finger (and toe) at the last knuckle. It is an unnecessary surgery, most often performed to address convenience issues such as problem scratching of household furniture and it provides no medical benefit whatsoever to the cat.

Declawing of cats is not fully condoned by any veterinary medical association. A multitude of veterinarians across Wisconsin and the country refuse to perform this procedure on ethical grounds, citing that it is an invasive convenience surgery. In the last few years both [the American Animal Hospital Association \(AAHA\)](#) and [American Association of Feline Practitioners \(AAFP\)](#) strengthened their position statements against declawing, with the AAHA now asserting that it "strongly opposes the declawing of domestic cats." The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) opposes any surgical procedure—including declawing—done solely for the convenience of the caregiver and yielding no medical benefit to the companion animal.

This surgery can be extremely painful and may lead to life-long health risks and complications, including behavioral abnormalities such as litter-box aversion and increased biting. These conditions often lead to owner surrender of declawed cats and place financial burdens on already-strained shelters and often, the taxpayer.



On behalf of our members and supporters in Madison and the state of Wisconsin, we strongly urge you to support passage of Ordinance 67344 which will protect the health and well-being of family pets and allow Madison to shine as a leader in humane values.

Respectfully,

Megan Nicholson  
Wisconsin State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States

Resident of Madison, Wisconsin

From: Diane <catscoral55@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:50 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Ban Cat Declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Declawing is cruel. It's chopping their toes off at the first knuckle. Not only must it hurt like hell, the effects go on for the life of the cat. The cat is likely to get arthritis sooner, because of the unnatural way they have to walk. This affects their hips, legs and feet.

Please ban declawing in the City of Madison!



**From:** sara mayer <mayersm@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Support for the Madison cat declawing ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to express my strong support for the cat declawing ban in Madison.

Respectfully,  
Sara Mayer  
1917 Madison Street  
Madison, WI 53711

From: Matt Gillette <mfgillette05@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:57 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I wanted to send this email to support the proposed declawing ban for the city of Madison. Thank you for your time and considering this very humane effort.

Sincerely,

Matt Gillette - Senior Volunteer at DCHS and rescuer of 4 cats.

On behalf of my mother Diane Marie, supporter of DCHS and owner of one cat.

**From:** Diane Larkin <dlarkin466@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:05 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Declaw

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I strongly support Legislative File 67344: The proposed ordinance to prohibit removing or disabling a cat's claws by performing a declawing procedure,

Declawing is amputation, whether performed by scalpel, clippers, or laser. We believe there is never a reason to declaw for non-therapeutic reasons (that is, unless surgery were necessary to treat animals' medical conditions). Declawing does not keep cats in homes, a fact acknowledged by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). The state of New York banned declawing in 2019. Eight cities in California - Los Angeles, San Francisco, West Hollywood, Burbank, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, and Culver City - plus St. Louis, Denver, Austin, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis County (MO) have enacted declaw bans. Veterinarians in the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland and Labrador have rejected declawing as unethical and inhumane.

Statistics publicly available from the cities having declaw bans, and from British Columbia, indicate that the relinquishment of cats to shelters in those cities, in the years since the bans were enacted, has not increased - in fact, the number of cats dumped in shelters has DECREASED consistently in the eleven to 18 years since the laws went into effect. The hundreds of veterinary hospital operated by VCA and Banfield no longer offering declawing. Clinics certified by the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and Fear Free are not allowed to declaw.

There is no reason to believe that declawing cats protects human health. The NIH, CDC, US Public Health Service, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the Canadian Medical Association, all have specifically stated that the declawing is "not advised," even for the animals of persons who are severely immunocompromised, including those with HIV. This opinion is echoed in statements on declawing published by the AAHA and AAFP.

We hope this ordinance will be successful and be a model for humane legislation in other cities.

Linda D Larkin  
8798 Woodbridge Drive  
Greendale, WI. 53129

From: linda roberts <lincarrob@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:30 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please vote to make declawing illegal! It is cruel!!!  
Or possibly have the people who want it for their cats, toget declawed themselves! After all if cats don't need there first part of their fingers and have the joint be the end, those people won't need their nails and fingertips either! Makes as much sense as declawing!  
Thank you  
Linda Roberts  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** Meghan Stecker <meghanmaestecker@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:30 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Agenda item #43 (67344)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi there,

I would like to express my support for the proposal to make declawing cats illegal. Thank you!

Meghan Stecker

**From:** Amanda Gunderman <agund88@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:41 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Declaw Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support making it illegal to declaw cats in Madison! The procedure is super inhumane. Imagine having your finger tips cut off at the first knuckle. Cat owners need to learn how to properly care for a cat, and get scratching posts. Cats need their claws for balance while they walk and for self defense if they ever escape their home. Not to mention it's extremely painful. And it's already illegal in many places!

**From:** Nicole <missariels@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:50 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Declawing cats support

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I fully support outlawing declawing cats.

Thank you  
Nicole.

**From:** Ash D <ashley.dupre007@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Item #43, illegal declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello Alders,

I'm writing to express my full support in making cat declawing in Madison illegal, and I implore you to vote the same.

Trusted research has shown that this procedure is cruel, inhumane, and needless, often causing life-long pain and exacerbating degenerative changes due to the deformity. There are so many affordable, practical, healthy and easy to use alternatives, it's difficult to justify resorting to such an extreme choice.

Our society progresses for the better when we can accept objective information and adapt accordingly. In human medical practice this is seen all the time. It only makes sense that this progression extend to the compassion we have for other species, especially those of such historic companionship. The idea that this surgery should be an option is archaic in light of the evidence.

I've never written to government figures before, but voting to prevent any further invasive disfigurement of felines seems like an easy way to be a leader for others in our societal goal of growth and compassion.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Dupre  
City of Madison resident



**From:** Danielle <kdb890@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Ban Cat Declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please support #43 on tonight's City of Madison Common Council meeting agenda - Ordinance 67344, to ban elective declawing of cats!

As someone who has worked at an animal shelter in Madison for almost 6 years, I've seen the detrimental physical and behavioral affects that declawing has on them. I have sadly witnessed hundreds of cats being surrendered and euthanized year after year because the owners can no longer put up with the problems that declawing caused in the long run. Those problems include arthritis, litterbox aversion, muscle atrophy, chronic pain, bone shards being left behind, and much more.

Thank you!

From: vicki leonsteiner <vickileo@icloud.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:58 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Ban on declawing cats in city of Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support this ban, as it is a form of abuse to cats. I don't live in Madison, however, a ban on declawing could have a ripple effect throughout the state.

**From:** Janelle Asselin <janelle.m.asselin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I wanted to voice my support for banning declawing in Madison. I am a resident of Madison and a cat lover and owner who has read a lot of the research regarding the poor after effects of declawing, not to mention the fact that the surgery removes a cat's full first finger bones on each paw. I have also volunteered in animal rescue for many years, which has including working in shelters, fostering cats and kittens, and providing marketing support for shelters. In this time, I've sadly seen many cats who were declawed, then experienced behavioral issues due to the surgery, and were abandoned or surrendered by their owners. Serious animal lovers know better than to declaw cats, but not everyone is as knowledgeable about the harmful effects of the surgery, so making it illegal could protect hundreds if not thousands of cats over year. I urge you to consider these defenseless animals.

Thank you,  
Janelle Asselin

**From:** marilynhanson52 <marilynhanson52@charter.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:09 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Agenda item 43, ban on cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I would like to register my support for the above ban on cat declawing. Thank you.

Marilyn Hanson

**From:** Susan Shepanek <susan.shepanek@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:16 PM

**To:** PH BOH Support <PHBOHSupport@cityofmadison.com>; All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** My support of ordinance 67344, re declaw procedures

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Staff of Public Health of Madison and Dane County, and my Alder District 6, Brian Benford, and the entire City Council members,

I gave testimony last week to the City and County Dept of Public Health in favor of making Madison a city that will not allow the declawing procedure on felines.

I am a volunteer on the Feline behavioral team at a local animal rescue, Underdog Pet Rescue, since October 2020. I make my home with my 15 year old cat Addy, and our Archie cat passed 4 years ago at age 20. I feel I'm qualified to speak on this issue too because I have almost twenty years of cat guardian experience, as a cat parent, and knowledgeable and caring about cats and kittens. Over these years I have read 8 books on cat behavior, attended workshops by noted cat behaviorists, and I can confidently say that these behaviorists and feline experts would NEVER recommend the last digit surgical removal of a cat or kitten.

The field of feline behavior and science is still relatively new to animal guardian society, which began in the late '90s early 2000s. All those close to cats are just learning, really, and I observe this now and did constantly in my 5 year professional petsitting business in cat households. Our cats were, and are but it's improving slowly, a very misunderstood companion animal.

At the vanguard of our more educated and compassionate understanding of how cats perceive their world, is the cat caring people who published, got on YouTube with educational videos and webinars. They firmly believe that declawing a cat is an abomination and an inhuman tragedy to that cat.

I consulted on a story of a woman who adopted a 5 year old cat with all digits on all 4 paws amputated, that was surrendered to a shelter out of state, who had intermittent behavior of mild biting and scratching, which I highly suspect was correlated. We did everything we could but in the end the most humane for him was euthanizing.

If people would see the simplicity of the solution of a scratchpost for their cats or cats, actually a few scratch posts I'd advise, and research best materials, (sisal, not carpeting), and show their cat what it's for, by rubbing catnip, or drape a wand toy over it, I'm confident that their cat will use it, and NOT turn to the couch to scratch that. Plenty instructional online.

We ourselves must take responsibility and learn ourselves how to be better friends to our felines. Proven by functional DNA testing and published in 2014, the Feline Project, proved that cats are mostly wild, not fully domesticated. A behavior from their wildness is the need to

scratch for 4 different purposes; I'm optimistic we can learn what they need and require to be happy and healthy.

Thankyou.  
Susan Shepanek  
1459 E Main St. 212  
Madison, WI  
608-515-2993

**From:** Kelly Thompson <superawesomevetforever@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:22 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Item #43 Declaw Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I just wanted to reach out to declare my support for the ban on declawing. I am a small animal veterinarian who went to school here in Madison, and I've practiced here in the city since 2012. I was forced to do the surgery once in school and I've never done it again, because I believe cats deserve to keep their toes. Declawing changes their anatomy and the way they bear weight, leading to arthritis and pain in the future. Even if it didn't, it serves no purpose to the cat and usual is done because people are worried about their furniture. Everyone who gets a cat should accept the fact that claws come with cats and are integral to their physical and emotional health.

Sincerely  
Kelly Thompson, DVM

**From:** Melanie Sigg <melaniejo53@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** In support of cat declaw ban in Madison

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

You have my full support in this !!!!  
Thank you Melanie Sigg



**From:** Jane Duffstein <jane.duffstein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:39 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** cat declawing ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello.

I write to support the ban on declawing cats.

Many countries and states have already banned this cruel practice. Please vote to ban declawing.

Thank you,  
Jane  
53718

**From:** Jody Knott <jodyknott9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 2:42 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Declawing cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please, please make this illegal!!

Thank you.

Jody Knott

**From:** Mikayla Katz CVT <MikaylaCVT@catcareclinic.net>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 3:02 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Agenda 67344

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my support of this agenda. A cat's long-term health and comfort are affected by this invasive and often unnecessary procedure.

Thank you,

Mikayla Katz, CVT  
Head Veterinary Technician



**From:** Madeline Lux <maddie6787@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 3:06 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>; Lemmer, Lindsay <district3@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Madison Cat Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to voice my support for the ban against declawing cats in the city of Madison. Declawing is a cruel and unnecessary practice that has been banned in many European countries for decades, and has been banned in several US cities, including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, and Austin, as well as the entire state of New York.

Please help Madison join that list and do our part to make the world a better place for cats.

Sincerely,  
Madeline Lux  
Madison Resident and Voter in District 3

From: James Hustad <jahustad@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 3:28 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Agenda item 43

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

Never did this before but as someone who grew up on a farm with cats and have had them in my apartment for just shy of 15 years I do not believe declawing a cat should happen.

Jim Hustad  
344 west Dayton street  
Apt 108

Thank you for your time

**From:** kathy johnson <katjohnson51@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 4:08 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** declawing cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello,

I have owned several cats in my life and in my 30s and 40s, I always had them f clawed to protect my furniture and belongings. But then I learned how painful, demoralizing and inhumane it is to have that knuckle removed from their paw so the claw is removed. I discovered that through the use of spraying water, I could train the cat to not damage my belongings. Please support the legislation to ban declawing of cats in Madison.

Kathy Johnson

608-513-7527

**From:** Marilyn Trombly <merritrom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:03 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please consider banning cat declawing. It is an unnecessary partial amputation of a cat's paws. It causes needless pain and suffering for innocent cats!!

Thank you -

Marilyn Trombly  
830 Hummingbird Ct  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

**From:** Becky Robinson <BRobinson@alleycat.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:07 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Cc:** Fields, Debbie <DFields@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Vote YES on Leg. File 67344 Prohibiting Declawing  
**Importance:** High

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.



## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

December 7, 2021

Alder Syed Abbas, Common Council President  
Members of the City of Madison Common Council  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Council President Abbas and Members of the Common Council:

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our nearly 1,000 supporters in Madison, I urge you to support Legislative File Number 67344 – Prohibiting Declawing Procedures. If enacted into law, this ordinance would prohibit declawing, also known as onychectomy, a painful procedure which involves the surgical amputation of the last joints of an animals' toes.

Alley Cat Allies is the global engine of change for cats. We protect and improve cats' lives through our innovative, cutting-edge programs. We are seen around the world as a champion for the humane treatment of all cats. Founded in 1990, today Alley Cat Allies helps tens of thousands of individuals, communities, and organizations save and improve the lives of millions of cats and kittens worldwide. We are reaching out to you because prohibiting the declawing of cats in Madison will significantly benefit the health and wellbeing of cats in your city.



Cats rely on their paws, including their nails, or claws, for behavioral and grooming needs. Their claws help them to protect and defend themselves, and scratching removes dead nail sheaths and stretches and strengthens their muscles. Unfortunately, many people think declawing is a harmless solution to address unwanted scratching behavior and will result in more cats staying in their homes. However, declawing is a predominantly elective surgery that can be traumatic and cause permanent damage and pain for cats.

Declawing a cat is both psychologically and physically harmful. Side effects from declawing can include hemorrhaging, paw pad lacerations, swelling, radial nerve damage, lameness, infections, and chronic pain. Cats who suffer from these side effects may develop behavioral issues, such as aggression, biting, and urinating outside the litter box. These consequences of declawing are the behavior issues that cause most cats to be relinquished to animal shelters. Instead of declawing cats, there are many affordable humane alternatives available to address scratching behavior, like scratching posts, spray deterrents, and nail caps.

Leaders in veterinary medicine hold positions against declawing since it is usually done for the preference or convenience of the cat owner rather than for the health of the cat. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) has ended elective declawing procedures in its “Cat Friendly Practices®.” Major national veterinary chains Banfield, VCA and BluePearl Pet Hospitals have prohibited cat declawing in their 2,000+ hospitals. Other organizations that oppose declawing include the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA), the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM), and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) does not recommend declawing for immunocompromised cat owners.

Laws and policies to ban declawing have been adopted worldwide. Policymakers in New York state, 12 major U.S. cities, eight Canadian provinces, and at least 42 countries have passed legislation and national veterinary policies to make declawing cats and other animals illegal. The case is clear: declawing is unacceptable.

On behalf of our supporters, your constituents, and Madison’s animals, we urge you to support a prohibition on declawing procedures and keep cats’ claws on their paws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Robinson".

Becky Robinson  
President and Founder

7920 Norfolk Avenue, Suite 600, Bethesda, MD 20815-2525 · 240-482-1980 · Fax: 240-482-1990 · [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)

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[alleycat.org](http://alleycat.org)



**From:** Carrie Roth <cjaner53@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:12 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Declawing of cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please vote against this ridiculous and barbaric practice of declawing cats (usually performed when they are kittens). There is one and only one reason people choose this. It is NOT for the cat's health. If protecting furniture and "stuff" is so important, then a cat is not a good choice for a pet.

Thank you for all your hard work. I realize this is only one item but there are many felines out there who will be grateful to put an end to unnecessary surgery and pain.

Sincerely,  
Carrie J Roth

**From:** mlearhodes <mlearhodes@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:19 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Madison Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Michelle and Philip Rhodes Jr support the Madison Declawing Ban. Thank you!  
Michelle and Philip Rhodes Jr

**From:** Karla Bock <kbock14@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:26 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Madison Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

To whom it may concern,

I am in full support of making it illegal to declaw a cat in the city of Madison.

It is an unnecessary and cruel thing to do to a cat.

Please cast your vote to pass this proposal and make this a better city for kitties.

Thank you,  
Karla Bock

**From:** Stefanie Quintero <sgqcv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:19 PM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Agenda item #43 (67344)

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I'm reaching out to support the ordinance prohibiting declaw procedures on cats, however I would like to add some commentary from a medical viewpoint as a working veterinary professional. This practice is an archaic, unnecessary, and often medically disadvantageous one that has no benefit to the patient in healthy cats. My only concern for this ordinance that I would like to raise, is that it is unclear if declaw procedures would be allowed in cases where it is medically indicated for a patient. For instance, a recent patient I worked with suffered from chronic and painful nail bed infections that severely inhibited her quality of life and comfort. In her case, declawing was beneficial in her treatment and helped to resolve her ongoing pain. I absolutely do not condone declawing in cats without a medical cause, however, I would implore the legislature to take into account medical concerns and, if not already outlined, add contingency clauses for true medically indicated declaws. Thank you for your time and I hope this input is helpful in your decision.

Stefanie Quintero  
Certified Veterinary Technician

From: Janeen <stubbe3956@yahoo.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:29 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Cat declaw

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Please ban cat declawing in Madison.

Thanks  
Jansen Stubbe

**From:** Megan Fischer <megan.e.c.fischer@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 6:53 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** Cat declawing

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hello! I registered to speak but I have had a family emergency. I am so thrilled to see this come to Madison and my dearest hope is it is passed here and banned statewide in the future. I have volunteered with a rescue for 4 years now. I have supported the ban on declawing even longer. I have seen cats get adopted then returned with no claws and seen ppl say its because they stopped using the litterbox. I have seen how much pain these animals are in firsthand. I've seen cats have to get surgery from bone fragments left behind from declawing. It breaks my heart every single time I see their paws. I saw a stray in my parking lot last year. I thought his paws looked odd. And then I realized he had no claws and my heart broke. How was he to defend himself without them? Luckily I took him to a shelter. Not only does declawing take away their first line of defense but it causes negative behaviors like biting and going outside the box and I've seen it all through my volunteer years. Watching those animals in so much pain, seeing their paws warped and mutilated and wrong like that shatters my being in ways most ppl may not understand. To me every cat I help impacts my life in ways I never thought possible. I hope this motion passes because its hard to go through the heartbreak everytime. They don't deserve such unnecessary pain for our selfishness. That you all have found it in your hearts to consider banning this makes my heart so happy. Thank you so much for all you do.



**From:** Rebecca Chovanec <rchovan@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 7:11 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** I support the proposal !

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Declawing is inhumane. I support making declawing cats illegal . Please and thank you. 🐾 🐾 🐾



**From:** Karla Krohn <krennekrohn@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:07 PM

**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>

**Subject:** declawing cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I believe it should be illegal to declaw cats.

Karla Krohn  
3018 Todd Dr.  
Madison, WI 53713

From: Esther Herold <esther.herold@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 9:41 PM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: No Cruelty to Cats

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

I support a ban on declawing cats. My cats Lexie and Willie support it as well.

Esther Herold  
110 N Livingston Street 325  
Madison, WI 53703

From: Erin Cassidy <ecassidy@edgewood.edu>  
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 9:58 AM  
To: All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
Subject: Common Council – December 7, 2021 - Agenda Item 43

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Hi

I'm writing to express my support for the ban on declawing cats. The process is cruel and unnecessary and suitable alternatives exist for declawing.

On a related note, I urge the council to consider banning landlords from requiring residents cats to be declawed. This is the next step in eradicating the practice of declawing. It would highly benefit those not in a position to purchase housing and also decrease cost barriers in adopting cats.

Thanks  
Erin

**From:** Pat Malcolm <pmalcpoet@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021 10:48 AM  
**To:** All Alders <allalders@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Cat Declawing Ban

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Declawing is inhumane. I hope you will support the Cat Declawing Ban when it comes before you.

Thank you,  
Pat Malcolm  
Davidson St  
Madison