

WHO SAYS DECLAWING IS A BAD IDEA?

Declawing is illegal or considered inhumane in many countries around the world, including in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Northern Ireland, Scandinavia, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil.

In the United States and throughout the world, many respected individuals and organizations are opposed to declawing.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (www.aspca.org): "The ASPCA does not approve of the declawing of cats as a matter of supposed convenience to cat owners. It is form of mutilation and it does cause pain."

The Humane Society of the United States (www.hsus.org): "It is the policy of The Humans Society of the United States (HSUS) to oppose... declawing of cats when done solely for the convenience of the owners and without benefit to the animal."

The Cat Fancier's Association (www.cfainc.org): "The CFA perceives the declawing of cats (onychectomy) and the severing of digital tendons (tendonectomy) to be elective surgical procedures which are without benefit to the cat. Because of postoperative discomfort or pain, and potential future behavioral or physical effects, CFA disapproves of declawing or tendonectomy surgery."

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Great Britain (www.rcvs.org.uk): The RCVS describes declawing as "mutilation." Further it states "the removal of claws...to preclude damage to furnishings is not acceptable."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (www.peta.org): "Claws are an integral part of a cat's life...Declawing is a painful and permanently crippling procedure that should not be practiced."

Dr. Nicholas Dodman, author and professor, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine: "Declawing fits the dictionary definition of mutilation to a tee."

In Defense of Animals (www.idausa.org): IDA opposes declawing, and in their publications state, "The excuses people use for wanting to declaw a cat are usually trivial, and nearly always put the well-being of their belonging above that of the cat."

Friends of Animals (www.friendsofanimals.org):
"If you love your cat, don't declaw."

Dr. Louis Camuti, noted author and veterinarian: "I wouldn't declaw a cat if you paid me \$1000 per nail!"

Animal Protection Institute (www.api4animals.org): "Please make the humane choice -- do not declaw."

The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights (www.avar.org): Declawing is "unacceptable because the suffering and disfigurement it causes is not offset by any benefits to the cat. Declawing is done strictly to provide convenience to people."

Animal Care and Control Department, City and County of San Francisco: "Declawing is NOT the answer. Declawing is a painful and difficult operation. It is the same as removing the first joint on all your fingers. It impairs the cat's balance and causes weakness from muscular disuse."

Paul Rowen, DVM, Little Shelter Animal Sanctuary, New York: "You can't declaw with love."

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Los Angeles (www.spcala.com): "We do NOT support, nor condone, the act of declawing cats. It is cruel, unnecessary, and inhumane."