



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1533

Introduced 1/31/2023, by Rep. Barbara Hernandez

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

510 ILCS 5/3.10 new

Amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Provides that a person shall not perform surgical claw removal, declawing, or a tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise alter a cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent or impair the normal function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws, except for a therapeutic purpose. Provides that the Department of Agriculture shall subject person who violates the provisions to a civil penalty of \$500 for a first violation, \$1,000 for a second violation, and \$2,500 for a third or subsequent violation.

LRB103 06016 RJT 51042 b

1 AN ACT concerning animals.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Humane Care for Animals Act is amended by
5 adding Section 3.10 as follows:

6 (510 ILCS 5/3.10 new)

7 Sec. 3.10. Cat declawing.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Declawing" means an onychectomy or any other surgical
10 procedure to amputate or modify a portion of a cat's paw in
11 order to remove the cat's claws. This term does not include the
12 trimming of nonviable claw husk or placing nonpermanent nail
13 caps.

14 "Tendonectomy" means a procedure in which the tendons to a
15 cat's limbs, paws, or toes are cut or modified so that the
16 normal functioning of the claws is impaired.

17 "Therapeutic purpose" means a medically necessary
18 procedure to address an existing or recurring infection,
19 disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claws, nail bed,
20 or toe bone, which jeopardizes the cat's health. "Therapeutic
21 purpose" does not include a procedure performed for a cosmetic
22 or aesthetic purpose or to make the cat more convenient to keep
23 or handle.

1 (b) A person shall not perform surgical claw removal,
2 declawing, or a tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise alter a
3 cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent or impair the normal
4 function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws.

5 (c) This Section does not apply to a person who performs a
6 procedure solely for a therapeutic purpose.

7 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall impose upon a
8 person who violates this Section a civil penalty of \$500 for a
9 first violation, \$1,000 for a second violation, and \$2,500 for
10 a third or subsequent violation.