

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 70/3.10 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) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), a  
2       person shall not perform surgical claw removal, declawing, or  
3       a tendonectomy on any cat or otherwise alter a cat's toes,  
4       claws, or paws to prevent or impair the normal function of the  
5       cat's toes, claws, or paws.

6       (c) Surgical claw removal, declawing, or a tendonectomy on  
7       any cat or otherwise altering a cat's toes, claws, or paws to  
8       prevent or impair the normal function of the cat's toes,  
9       claws, or paws may only be performed by a veterinarian  
10       licensed under the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice  
11       Act of 2004 for therapeutic purposes for the cat.

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

16       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect 90 days  
17       after becoming law.