

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: June 28, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations and
Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *SK*
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 15-0002-S175
Assignment No: 16-06-0489

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-Blumenfield) to OPPOSE the declawing of animals.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz-Blumenfield) to include in the City's 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP or SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action that would ban the declawing of animals except when necessary to preserve the animal's health.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Koretz-Blumenfield), introduced May 17, 2016, urges administrative action or the sponsorship of legislation that would institute a statewide ban on the declawing of animals except for therapeutic purposes defined as infection, disease, illness, or an abnormal condition that compromises the animal's health. The Resolution also states that there is a bill, AB1297 (Rosenthal) in New York, that prohibits the declawing or flexor tendonectomy of any animal, except for therapeutic purposes. The Resolution states that nine local governments in California have banned declawing in addition to many other countries such as Germany, France, and Israel because it is an invasive procedure that offers no health benefits to the animal. The Resolution therefore requests that the City sponsor legislation or support administrative action that would ban the declawing of animals except for a therapeutic purpose.

BACKGROUND

Declawing an animal is an invasive procedure that requires the amputation of bone, nerves, collateral ligaments, and tendons of the animal. The PAW Project advises that this operation is damaging to the animal and has risks such as anesthetic complications, infection, and death. Furthermore, Ordinance No. 180986 (C.F. 09-2213), enacted in 2009, prohibits the declawing of animals in the City of Los Angeles. A position against the declawing or flexor tendonectomy of an animal is consistent with City policy.

In 2012, the State Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed into law SB 1229 (Pavley), which prohibits landlords from requiring tenants to declaw their animals as a condition of tenancy. Also, in 2004, AB 1857 (Koretz) which was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger, prohibits the declawing of wild or exotic cats.

The Department of Animal Services has expressed support for the declawing ordinance that was enacted in 2009 and for a more extensive statewide declawing ban.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Animal Services



Henry Flatt
Analyst

Attachment: 1. Resolution (Koretz-Blumenfield)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the declawing of a cat is an invasive procedure that requires the amputation of the last bone, surrounding nerves, collateral ligaments, and extensor and flexor tendons of the animal; and

WHEREAS, the PAW Project advises that this operation is damaging to the animal and has inherent risks such as anesthetic complications, lameness, infection, pain and death; and

WHEREAS, this procedure is usually done for the convenience of the owner with limited circumstances where the procedure is done for the animal's health; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the City of Los Angeles enacted an ordinance banning the declawing of cats because the practice is inhumane and unnecessary; and

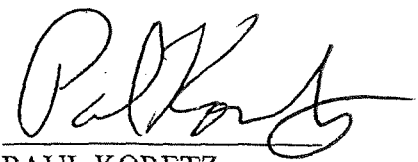
WHEREAS, nine local governments in California have banned declawing, and it is illegal or allowed only under extreme circumstances in Israel, France, and Germany, among many other nations; and

WHEREAS, Assemblyman Rosenthal has introduced AB1297 in New York, which would prohibit the declawing or flexor tendonectomy of any animal within the State of New York, except when necessary for a therapeutic purpose defined as infection, disease, existing or recurring illness, or an abnormal condition that compromises the animal's health; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support similar legislation in California because it would help limit the suffering of animals, prevent potential life-long side effects, and promote public health and safety concerns; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP or SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action that would ban the declawing of animals except when necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

PRESENTED BY



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY



MAY 17 2016