

# Position Statements on Cat Declawing

---

## **Animal Welfare Organizations typically provide a “last resort” option for Declawing**

The following animal welfare organizations state that declawing should be permitted **as a last resort**; after all other remedies fail to prevent a cat from using its claws destructively or when clawing presents a health risk to a cat owner in order to **prevent pet abandonment, relinquishment and euthanasia**:

- The San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (**SF SPCA**)  
<http://www.sfspca.org/about-us/press/position-statements>
- The American Veterinary Medical Association (**AVMA**)  
<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/apr03/030415c.asp>
- The California Veterinary Medical Association (**CVMA**)  
<http://www.cvma.net/doc.asp?id=2027>
- The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (**ASPCA**)  
<http://www.aspcbehavior.org/articles/25/Destructive-Scratching.aspx>
- The Humane Society of the United States (**HSUS**)  
[http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet\\_care/our\\_pets\\_for\\_life\\_program/cat\\_behavior\\_tip\\_sheets/destructive\\_scratching/](http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/our_pets_for_life_program/cat_behavior_tip_sheets/destructive_scratching/)
- The American Association of Feline Practitioners (**AAFP**)  
<http://www.catvets.com/professionals/guidelines/position/?Id=291>
- The American Animal Hospital Association (**AAHA**)  
<http://secure.aahanet.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?site=resources&webcode=referenceDetail&posKey=167adec1-3e3b-4cd7-b47a-c38a8dd54468>
- The Canadian Veterinary Medical association (**CVMA**)  
<http://canadianveterinarians.net/ShowText.aspx?ResourceID=28>

## **Expert Medical and Ethics Professionals Oppose a Ban on Declawing**

- **Dr. Bernard E .Rollin**, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Animal Sciences and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University
- **Arnold Plotnick** DVM, board-certified veterinary internist and owner of Manhattan Cat Specialists, feline-exclusive veterinary hospital in New York City
- **Bonnie V. Beaver** BS, DVM, MS, DPNAP, DACVB, Professor, Head of the Community Practice Service
- **Todd Tams**, DVM, Diplomat ACVIM, Chief Medical Officer VCA
- **HIV/AIDS Specialists, Epidemiologists, and MDs Around the World**

## **People Across the United States Oppose a Ban on Cat Declawing**

Millions of cat owners who care deeply for their animals oppose a Ban. And they are not alone. AOL recently (Sep 2009) conducted a nationwide poll and over 32,000 people participated and voters **OPPOSED A CAT DECLAW BAN BY 2-1** <http://news.aol.com/article/san-francisco-may-ban-declawing-cats/659450>

## **Politicians Oppose a Ban on Cat Declawing**

Over 90% of the California legislature recently voted to enact Senate Bill 762 (SB 762), a new law that places this complicated issue in the hands of a 7-member veterinary medical board that has the resources, expertise, and mandate to thoroughly examine all aspects and professionally assess the data from all sources.

## **The Data and Published Studies Oppose a Ban on Cat Declawing**

Every major scientific study conducted since 1991 confirms that the data DOES NOT support a ban. Studies and feline behavior experts all agree that there is **no evidence** that declawing significantly alters cat behavior, increases biting, or leads to litter-box avoidance.