



January 20, 2025

Chair Judy Aron  
Vice Chair Barbara Comtois  
Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 301-303  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: VETERINARY SUPPORT for HB 201-FN, Prohibiting the Removal of Claws from Cats**

Dear Chair Aron, Vice Chair Comtois and Members of the NH House Environment and Agriculture Committee:

On behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Alliance (HSVMA), I am writing today to encourage your support for HB 201-FN, a bill that would prohibit inhumane feline declawing in New Hampshire.

HSVMA believes that the declawing of cats—unless medically necessary to treat a physical illness, injury, or disease—is inhumane. The veterinary community has seen the serious negative effects of declawing, while examining and treating cats suffering from the aftereffects of this surgery. In light of this evidence and our professional experience, we support legislation to end the nontherapeutic declawing of cats.

Research has repeatedly indicated not only a high post-op complication rate of 50%, but an increased likelihood of declawed cats avoiding the litter box, and biting--which means that declawed cats pose a greater risk to human health and safety. Tragically, these are the primary behavioral reasons why cats are relinquished to shelters, where many face euthanasia.

Scratching is a normal feline behavior. It removes dead husks from cats' claws, marks territory, and stretches muscles. Where scratching may be a problem, HSVMA advocates for the use of sensible and humane alternatives such as scratching posts, alternative furniture selection or placement, nail trims, nail caps and training.

We join the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) in strongly opposing convenience declawing.



Declawing is already prohibited in dozens of countries worldwide and in more than a dozen U.S. cities, including Evanston, IL; Austin, TX; Denver, CO; Madison, WI; Pittsburgh, PA; St. Louis, MO; and Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Culver City and West Hollywood, CA. Furthermore, New York, Maryland, Virginia, and Massachusetts have all passed statewide declawing bans.

We strongly encourage you to take a humane leadership stance and support this legislation, protecting cats in The Granite State

Sincerely,

Karen Campbell, DVM, DACVIM  
HSVMA New Hampshire State Representative