

Please Support HB 201 and Stop the Elective Mutilation of Cats

Dear Honorable Representatives,

After making just a couple of calls, I was able to confirm two veterinarians who perform elective cat declawing for clients. The opposers to this bill are incorrect in stating this does not happen in New Hampshire. This is clear mutilation and I can attest to that fact because I adopted a declawed cat. He struggled his whole life not being able to perform natural functions that a cat would do. He could not climb one of my cat trees and the one time he escaped outside without me knowing, he was attacked by a dog because he could not climb a tree to get away. Thankfully he was able to squeeze in some rocks until the dog was called away. I used to put him on a leash and he would run up a tree just to fall right off.

If a person were to go into the woods and find an animal and rip their toes off, they would be cited for animal cruelty. Why therefore is it okay to do this to a domestic cat, whether you 'own' the cat or not?

My Senator disappointed me a couple of years ago because in terms of this bill he said he did not like cat declawing but this was a Live Free or Die state and he did not want to tell people what to do with their cats. I found that response egregious and close minded and cruel. Animals are living beings, they are not inanimate objects and cruelty is cruelty. There has to be boundaries. What if an owner wanted to allow their dog into a dog fight or wanted to debark a dog. Isn't that cruel, should it be allowed? A line has to be drawn somewhere and this bill will do that. If a person can't deal with a cat that scratches and wants to put them down, that person should not be even owning houseplants, much less a living breathing cat. That is really a nonsensical argument because I don't even know a place in NH that puts down healthy cats. My parents adopted a 12 year old sickly cat and saved his life, that cat was not put down. Yet we are supposed to believe healthy cats get put down because they have a horrible owner?

This bill keeps coming up and never gets passed because of the pressure of lobbyists, especially dog lobbyists which is extremely frustrating. Please don't play into that. We are dealing with cats and cats only. If all bills were legislated using a slippery slope argument, nothing would ever get passed and it would all be just a giant waste of time. It is time to pass this bill and stop the mutilation of cats.

Thank you very much for your consideration,

Kristina Snyder
New Hampshire Constituent