

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-141**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**URGING A STATEWIDE LAW PROHIBITING THE PROCEDURE KNOWN AS ONYCHECTOMY**  
**(DECLAWING) OR FLEXOR TENDONECTOMY**  
**OF CATS OR OTHER ANIMALS**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MARIN RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

**WHEREAS**, onychectomy (declawing) and flexor tendonectomy can be a painful operation, preventing an animal from being able to extend its claws and leaving it unable to scratch, affecting its balance and climbing and rendering it at a great disadvantage in defending itself; and

**WHEREAS**, there is evidence that links onychectomy (declawing) and flexor tendonectomy to a high risk of painful adverse and long lasting effects on animals and that complications can include damage to nerves, lameness and chronic pain; and

**WHEREAS**, declawing unnecessarily increases public health and safety risks as declawed animals become more prone to biting as a form of defense, leading to increased infection; and

**WHEREAS**, there are many alternatives that involve no physical harm to the animal.

**NOW THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MARIN DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

That the legislature of the State of California enact a statute stating that no person, licensed medical professional or otherwise, shall perform or cause to be performed an onychectomy (declawing) or flexor tendonectomy procedure by any means on a cat or on any other animal, except when necessary for a therapeutic purpose. Therapeutic purpose means the necessity to address the medical condition of the animal, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury or abnormal condition in the claw that compromises the animal's health. Therapeutic purpose does not include cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling the animal; and

That while the State has preempted local authority on this issue, we wish to state our general opposition to the practice of onychectomy in our community and encourage our local doctors of veterinary medicine to discourage the practice with vigor.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Susan L. Adams, Steve Kinsey, Charles McGlashan,  
Judy Arnold, Harold C. Brown, Jr.

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

  
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PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

  
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CLERK