

**CITY OF OJAI
RESOLUTION NO. 16-22**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA URGING PET GUARDIANS AND
VETERINARIANS TO DISCONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF DECLAWING CATS IN THE
CITY OF OJAI**

WHEREAS, an onychectomy is often a non-therapeutic amputation, or declawing of the third phalanx (or tip) of a cat's paw; and

WHEREAS, this surgical claw removal severs the attached muscles, tendons and nerves in the front paws and can lead to bone fragments, arthritis, abscesses, biting, litter box avoidance, and degenerative claw regrowth ; and

WHEREAS, this procedure robs cats of integral means of movement and defense, normal posture, normal use of toes in walking and running, and their ability to satisfy instinctive impulses to climb, exercise and mark territory; and

WHEREAS, more sensible and humane alternatives exist for guarding human safety against cat scratching.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OJAI DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AND ORDER, AS FOLLOWS:

- SECTION 1. That the City of Ojai hereby strongly urges cat owners and veterinarians to discontinue the practice of declawing native and exotic cat species except in cases where the procedure is for therapeutic purposes.
- SECTION 2. Therapeutic purposes 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 compromise the animal's health. Therapeutic purpose does not include cosmetic or aesthetic reason or reasons of convenience is keeping or handling the animal.
- SECTION 3. That while the State has preempted local authority on this issue, the City Council wishes to state its general opposition to the practice of onychectomy in our community and encourages our local doctors of veterinary medicine to discourage the practice.
- SECTION 4. That the City Manager establish a procedure where upon all existing and future providers of veterinary services receive a copy of this resolution no later than upon business license application and/or renewal and a copy be sent to the members of state legislation representing the citizens of Ojai and that the City Manager convey this resolution to the California Veterinary Board, along with a request that the Board revise their scope of practice to rule that non-therapeutic declawing is no longer within the acceptable scope of practice.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of April, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES: Blatz, Clapp, Haney, Lara, Weirick

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

CITY OF OJAI, CALIFORNIA



Paul Blatz, Mayor

ATTEST:



Steve McClary, Deputy City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Matthew Summers, City Attorney