



OPPOSED TO AB 867

Veterinary Medicine, Animal Declawing

AB 867 removes the veterinarian's and client's right to choose whether to perform a surgical procedure

AB 867 is fundamentally unnecessary inasmuch as the veterinary medical profession has appropriately regulated itself regarding this procedure over the years, and continues to do so in a thoughtful and compassionate manner.

Recent surveys of California veterinarians show that cat declawing surgical procedures are rarely performed in practice, if at all. Neither of California's two veterinary schools teach the procedure, and several of the largest veterinary corporations in the state have policies to not offer the procedure. There is no need for AB 867 since the veterinary profession has appropriately regulated itself in regard to animal declawing.

AB 867 does not consider legitimate medical conditions of the animal owner when banning the surgical procedure for reasons other than the "therapeutic" need of the animal.

On the rare occasion that a cat declaw procedure is performed, it is often in response to a request from a cat owner who is taking blood thinners, receiving chemotherapy, or is immunocompromised and cannot risk getting scratched by their cat. In these instances, owners are faced with potentially having to give up their pet, which is sometimes their sole source of companionship and support. AB 867 would remove the right for the animal owner to choose, in consultation with their veterinarian, whether to perform the procedure or not.

AB 867 attempts to override the State Veterinary Medicine Practice Act by permitting cities and counties to pass their own ordinances, which is a violation of current law.

Existing state law is clear that cities and counties cannot override the state Veterinary Medicine Practice Act by passing ordinances. AB 867 would negate that law and create confusion in an already complex legal system.

AB 867 requires unnecessary and burdensome paperwork that neither a veterinarian nor the California Veterinary Medical Board (CVMB) have the time or people power to manage and would subject the veterinarian to potential harassment by animal rights activists.

AB 867 would require a veterinarian to file a report with the CVMB each time they perform a declawing surgical procedure. This is an unnecessary bureaucratic red tape requirement that would ultimately subject the veterinarian to harassment by animal rights groups, since CVMB documentation is subject to public inspection.

**AB 867 sets a dangerous precedent in legislating what surgical procedures
a veterinarian may perform**