

AN ACT relating to cat declawing.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 258 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) *As used in this section:*

(a) *"Cat" and "veterinarian" have the same meaning as in KRS 258.005; and*

(b) *"Declawing" means the surgical amputation of all or part of the cat's third phalanges and the attached claws.*

(2) *Only a licensed veterinarian may perform a declaw procedure on a cat and no declaw procedure may be performed on a cat less than three (3) months of age. Prior to the declaw procedure, the veterinarian shall inform the cat's owner of the:*

(a) *Physical consequences of the declaw procedure, including impact to the function of the cat's paw, gait, weight shift, pain, or deterioration of the joints after the procedure;*

(b) *Potential pain endured by the cat during the procedure; and*

(c) *Potential alternatives to the declaw procedure.*