

ORDINANCE NO. 15855

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 88 - 2022

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

AN ORDINANCE

Amending the Codified Ordinance, Part Two: General Legislation, Chapter 163: Animals, Article I: Animal Control to include the prohibition of the declawing of cats in the City of Allentown unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALLENTOWN:

SECTION ONE: That Chapter 163: Animals, Article I: Animal Control shall be amended as follows:

Declawing of Cats; Prohibited Procedures and Conduct.

A. Definitions.

- (1) **Cat.** Any member of the Felidae family (both domestic and nondomestic felines).
- (2) **Declawing.** As used in this section the term “declawing” means any of the following:
 - (a) An onychectomy, dactylectomy, phalangectomy, partial digital amputation, or any other surgical procedure by which a portion of a cat’s paw is amputated to remove the cat’s claw.
 - (b) A tendonectomy or another surgical procedure by which the tendons of a cat’s limbs, paws, or toes are cut or modified so that the cat’s claws cannot be extended.
 - (c) Any other method of permanently or irreversibly preventing the normal functioning of a feline’s claws.
- (3) **Therapeutic purpose.** This term refers to the necessity of addressing the physical medical condition of a cat, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition of the cat which compromises the cat’s health. The term does not include a cosmetic or aesthetic reason or reasons of convenience for keeping or handling the cat.

B. *Prohibition.* A person may not perform a declawing by any means on a cat within the City of Allentown unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

C. Any person who violates this ordinance is subject to civil penalty of up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00), plus costs, for each violation. Each incident in which a cat is declawed or partially declawed in violation of this ordinance constitutes a separate violation.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa	X	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Daryl Hendricks	X	
Natalie Santos	X	
Joshua Siegel	X	
Ed Zucal	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota, Pres.	X	
TOTAL	7	0

I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by City Council on November 16, 2022 and signed by the Mayor on November 18, 2022.

Michael P. Huh

CITY CLERK

LEGISLATIVE TEMPLATE

- **What department or bureau is bill originating from? Where did the initiative for the bill originate?**

Mayor's Office

- **Summary and facts of the bill**

Amends the Codified Ordinance, Part Two: General Legislation, Chapter 163: Animals, Article I: Animal Control to include the prohibition of the declawing of cats in the City of Allentown unless the procedure is necessary for a therapeutic purpose.

- **Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **What does the bill do – what are the specific goals/tasks the bill seek to accomplish?**

This bill is intended to protect cats from a harmful and unnecessary procedure within the City of Allentown.

- **What are the benefits of doing this/down-side of doing this?**

This bill protects cats from a cruel and unnecessary procedure. There is no clear negative impact, as veterinary clinics have modern methods to handling any issues pertaining to a cat's claws.

- **How does this bill relate to the City's Vision/Mission/Priorities?**

This updates the City's General Legislation to reflect the current necessity for outlawing an outdated procedure and demonstrates a commitment to animal rights.

- **Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **Cost (Initial and ongoing)**
- **Benefits (initial and ongoing)**

There is no financial impact.

- **Funding Sources – Please include the following in your explanation:**

- **If transferring funds, please make sure bill gives specific accounts, if appropriating funds from a grant list the agency awarding the grant.**

There are no funds associated with this ordinance.

- **Priority status/deadlines, if any:**

As soon as possible.

- **Why should Council unanimously support this bill?**

This bill protects animals with no foreseen repercussions to the City.