

**BY AUTHORITY**

ORDINANCE NO.  
SERIES OF 2017

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB17-0709  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:

Safety, housing, education, and homelessness.

**A BILL**

**For an ordinance adding a new subsection (4) to section 8-131 of the Revised Municipal Code to include surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any cat in the definition of animal cruelty.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That section 131 (Cruelty to Animals Prohibited) of Article VII (Cruelty to Animals) of Chapter 8 (Animals) of the Revised Municipal Code shall be amended as follows:

**Sec. 8-131. - Cruelty to animals prohibited.**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to needlessly beat, inflict violence upon or kill, or to overdrive, overload, drive when overloaded, overwork, torture or mutilate, or to otherwise treat in a cruel, dangerous or inhumane manner, any animal, or to cause any of such acts to be done.

(b) It shall specifically be cruel, dangerous or inhumane for any person to:

(1) In a public place, transport or keep an animal in or on any motor vehicle or trailer unless the animal is safely restrained.

a. As used in this section, restrained is defined as enclosed within a vehicle or trailer with no openings large enough to permit the animal to exit the vehicle or trailer on its own, or placed within a secured container, cage or other enclosure sufficient to prevent the animal from falling from, being thrown from or jumping from the vehicle.

b. As used in this section, public place is defined as any place open to and generally used by the public, whether publicly or privately owned, including, but not limited to, streets, highways, alleys, parking lots, schools and commercial establishments.

(2) Leave an animal in an unattended vehicle either without adequate ventilation or in any manner which subjects the animal to extreme temperatures that are dangerous or detrimental to the animal's health or welfare.

(3) Tether and leave, or permit to be left, unattended any animal on a leash, cord or chain of less than six (6) feet in length for longer than one (1) hour.

(4) It shall specifically be cruel, dangerous or inhumane for any person to perform, procure, or arrange for surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any cat, or from altering such a cat's toes, claws, or paws in order to prevent their normal functioning, except when necessary for a

1 therapeutic purpose. "Therapeutic purpose" means the necessity to address the medical condition of  
2 the animal, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury or abnormal condition in  
3 the claw that compromises the animal's health. "Therapeutic purpose" does not include cosmetic or  
4 aesthetic reasons or reasons of convenience in keeping or handling the animal.

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6 **Section 4.** That this ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

7 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE:

8 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE:

9 PASSED BY COUNCIL \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_ - PRESIDENT

11 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

12 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
13 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
14 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

15 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

16 PREPARED BY: Zachary Rothmier, Legislative Analyst DATE: June 19, 2017

17 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of  
18 the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed  
19 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to §  
20 3.2.6 of the Charter.

21  
22 Denver City Attorney

23  
24 BY: \_\_\_\_\_, Assistant City Attorney DATE: \_\_\_\_\_