

PAW PROJECT

A 501(c)(3)
nonprofit
organization

The Paw Project



Number 3

Fall 2004

Fundraiser for The Paw Project and St. Martin's Animal Foundation

November 29, 2004
7:30 PM at
The Key Club
West Hollywood, CA

Fun, Food, Drinks,
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Arnold Terminates Big Cat Declawing

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 1857 into law on September 29, 2004, making California the first state to pass anti-declawing legislation in the US. The bill was sponsored by the Paw Project and introduced by Assemblyman Paul Koretz. AB 1857 passed the California Assembly in May 2004 with a bipartisan vote of 48-28-4. In late August, Senator Sheila Kuehl successfully steered the bill through the Senate, overcoming that body's initial reluctance to pass the bill. The governor could have vetoed the bill or have allowed it to become law without his signature.

Mr. Koretz was able to persuade the California Veterinary Medical Association not to oppose the bill since it did not include domestic cats. The opposition to the bill was a rag-tag, ad hoc coalition that included a group of animal rental company owners led by Charlie Sammut of WildThings. Sammut had inexplicably shown



California's Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (right) celebrates the signing of AB 1857, introduced by Paul Koretz and sponsored by The Paw Project.

a video in the Assembly hearing of his declawed cats walking. This tactic backfired as the legislators could clearly see the animals limping in obvious pain. A few veterinarians, ignoring the new AVMA guidelines opposing wild and exotic cat declawing, also opposed the bill. The most infamous of this bunch was Dr. Martin Dinnes

of Santa Clarita, CA, who admitted that his group was responsible for the declawing of 40,000 big cats, including Montecore, the white tiger who crippled Roy Horn, of Siegfried & Roy. Also opposing the bill, as they do all pro-animal bills, were the pit bull breeders' group called

(Continued on page 3)

AVMA Officially Opposes Declawing Big Cats

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has approved a position statement that says the Association "opposes declawing of captive exotic and other wild cats for nonmedical reasons." The AVMA Animal Welfare Committee (AWC), with input from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, adopted this

new position statement in January, 2004. Just 14 months before, the Paw Project approached Tim Reichard, DVM, of the Toledo Zoo, a member of AWC, and gave him data collected from the many reconstructive surgeries performed by the Paw Project. With this information and the experience of other zoo and wildlife veterinarians, Dr. Reichard was able to convince the welfare com-

mittee to adopt the statement which continues, "Because of their size, weight, and environment, exotic and wild cats commonly experience adverse effects when declawing is performed. The Welfare Committee believes the procedure is ill-advised for these cats, unless required for medical reasons." The committee has recently revised its position on declawing of small cats, but still does not consider it inhumane.

Donations Make Paw Repair Surgery Possible



Pictured above: Pablo, one of the bobcats at The Nature of Wild-works in Topanga, CA.

At right: Pablo's infected paw prior to surgery has atrophied pads and abnormal bone positioning. Reconstructive surgery alleviated pain from bone fragments and repositioned the pads.



In the past several months, many declawed animals have had reconstructive paw surgery, bringing the total number to 30. Eight different species have been treated, including lion, cougar, tiger, leopard, lynx, jaguar, bobcat, and serval. All four of the animals named in The Paw Project's prior appeals, Blue, Czar, Kato, and Pablo, have had surgery thanks to the generous donations of our supporters.

Sandra Hughes Goff of Santa Monica, CA ran the Los Angeles Marathon in March to raise money so that Blue, a tiger, could walk comfortably again. Her friends and family helped Blue get the surgery he needed to treat his front paws. Blue will be having surgery soon to repair his back toes.

Czar, Blue's brother, has undergone his final surgery. It took three separate surgeries to repair his four feet. Czar is recovering nicely, and the caregivers at his sanctuary are delighted at the change in the tiger's personality. He used to be agitated and aggressive, but

now he is very playful and energetic.

Pablo, a six-year-old male bobcat who had been declawed as a cub, had his front paws repaired in March. His friend and roommate, Kato, a six-year old serval, had his front paws repaired a couple of months earlier.

Blue and Czar had been raised in a traveling circus, but were abandoned when they became lame. Pablo and Kato were confiscated as illegal pets. Their owners thought declawing them would make them safer to handle. Instead, they were condemned to a life of pain and lameness.

Wild animals belong in the wild, but when they cannot be returned, they can be handled safely without declawing.

Reconstructive surgery does not replace the claws or solve all instances of lameness, but it can relieve some of declawing's effects by reattaching tendons and eliminating sources of infections.

With your help, The Paw Project can continue its work.

"If you see injustice and say nothing, you have taken the side of the oppressor."
Desmund Tutu

Paw Project Story Wins Genesis Award

"The Paw Project," a PBS television report on the successful movement to ban declawing in West Hollywood, CA was among the winners at the 18th Annual Genesis Awards. The awards are presented by The Human Society of the United States Hollywood Office to members of the media for stories that depict the plight of animals.

Nancy Salter, a producer for KCET's *Life & Times*, accepted the award at the March 20, 2004, Beverly Hills ceremony. The ceremonies were shown on the Animal Planet television channel.

"The Paw Project" aired on

May 8, 2003. The six-minute segment covers the story of West Hollywood's Mayor John Duran and his battle to outlaw declawing of all animals within his city's borders.

In the report, Duran explained that he was unaware that declawing was inhumane until he met with Paw Project Director, Jennifer Conrad. He remembered feeling disgusted to learn that veterinarians were routinely amputating cats' toes without educating owners about complications or alternatives.

Other 2004 Genesis Award winners included a PBS documentary on the predicament of

the jaguar in South America, KIRO-TV's (Seattle) news report on the cattle industry's treatment of "downer" cows, and a report on the cruelty and carnage of Mexican bull fights. Feature film awards went to the Pixar Animation Studios film, *Finding Nemo*, and MGM's *Legally Blonde 2*.

Gretchen Wyler, vice-president of the HSUS Hollywood Office, expressed her pleasure that the anti-declawing movement was represented in the winner's circle. "When the awards show airs," she said, "there will be another 2,000,000 viewers who are educated on this cruel and unnecessary surgery."



Seabiscuit had an uncredited cameo role in KCET's "The Paw Project"

Paw Project Hero: Paul Koretz

Assemblyman Paul Koretz is author of the nation's first state law banning declawing. Mr. Koretz began his political career in the city of West Hollywood where he served as Mayor and City Councilman for 12 years before his election to the 42nd district of the California State Assembly in 2000. Paul Koretz has been a long time champion of progressive issues and has established himself as a leader in environmental protection and animal welfare legislation. Koretz is a well-known advocate for animals and was the author of a resolution declaring West Hollywood an Animal Cruelty-Free Zone. As a City Councilman, he spear-

headed a program of pet adoptions at Council meetings. Koretz is also working to create a Beverly Hills/West Hollywood "no-kill" animal shelter. He created West Hollywood's Animal Issues Task Force and authored an ordinance to reduce dog and cat license fees for animals that have been spayed or neutered. Assemblyman Paul Koretz has made it a priority to carry pro-animal legislation every year. In 2003, Koretz introduced AB 342, which would ban the barbaric practice of using hunting dogs to chase bears up trees where they can be shot at almost point blank range. He also introduced AB 588, which would forbid the practice of pound seizure in California,

where homeless dogs and cats in shelters are sold for biomedical research and for practice surgeries in veterinary schools. Unfortunately, these bills were held-up in face of vehement opposition. "Animal legislation will always be challenging to work on, but that won't deter me," says Assemblyman Koretz. "It's my goal to help my fellow legislators understand how important these issues really are to Californians. If we ignore the pain and suffering of animals, then we do a disservice to our own humanity." Koretz received an A+ on the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 voting report cards from PAW PAC, the state's political action committee for animals.



Paul Koretz lives in West Hollywood with his wife Gail, daughter Rachel and two cats, Chagall and Samantha.

CA Anti-Declaw Law for Big Cats is First in Nation

(Continued from page 1)
the Animal Council, and cat show judge, Joan Miller, of the Cat Fanciers' Association. Their rationalizations for declawing included "making the animals safe for human contact and maintaining liability insurance for big cat owners." The legislators were not persuaded by the flimsy arguments of the opposition. Mr. Koretz was able to refute them with his simple and clear testimony.

Also testifying on behalf of the bill were Dr. Jennifer Conrad (Paw Project), Tippi Hedren (Roar Foundation), Pam Runquist and Teri Barnato (AVAR), Pat Derby (PAWS), Virginia Handley (Fund for Animals), Curt Ransom (HSUS), and representatives of United Animal Nations and Animal Protection Institute. Armed with dozens of cases of declawed cats maiming, dismembering or killing humans, Koretz proved

to legislators that declawing doesn't make a wild animal safer, but only lulls people into believing the animal is tamed. Koretz also provided evidence that trainers who do not declaw have always been able to get liability insurance. The bill will become law on January 1, 2005. Though the law does not protect domestic cats, it may serve as encouragement for others who wish to introduce pro-animal bills.

The Paw Project thanks all of you who contacted California state legislators and urged them to support this important, unprecedented anti-declaw legislation.

Berkeley, Malibu Join Growing Ranks of Anti-Declaw Cities



Above: "Hanging ten" claws in Malibu. Far right: Berkeley's most famous scratching post.

Four California cities, West Hollywood, San Francisco, Malibu, and Berkeley, have now passed resolutions condemning the practice of declawing, indicating the growing number of people who believe that declawing animals is inhumane and that sensible alternatives can be used to control scratching. The city of West Hollywood passed the first resolution against declawing and then went on to pass its precedent setting anti-declawing ordinance in April, 2003. In Berkeley, the resolution calls for an end to ear-cropping and tail-docking, as well as declawing.



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The Paw Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit animal welfare organization.

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The Paw Project's mission is to promote the humane and ethical treatment of animals, to educate the public about the painful and crippling effects of declawing, to end the practice of declaw surgery, and to rehabilitate big cats that have been declawed.

Tax-deductible contributions to The Paw Project are used to pay for surgical facilities and supplies, educational programs, and anti-declawing efforts.



Cosmic Pet Tells Customers, "Don't Declaw"

Cosmic Pet Products' President and Founder, Leon Seidman, has always felt that declawing was deplorable, so when he heard about the Paw Project, he jumped in to help. Seidman, who runs his family-owned business out of Hagerstown, Maryland, is the world's biggest supplier of catnip and has created many cat-friendly products, including the Alpine Scratcher. A favorite among cats because of their unique, slanted design, these scratching



This sticker is now on every one of the tens of thousands of Cosmic Pet Alpine Scratchers sold every year.

pads now bear a statement denouncing declawing and urging people with cats to use humane alternatives. The popular cardboard Alpine Scratcher is sold in over 4,000 stores throughout the 50 states and Canada, spreading the message that there are inexpensive and easy ways to teach cats to use their claws in appropriate places. Made of 80% recycled material, Alpine Scratchers are nice for the planet, too.

AB 1857– The Language of the New Law

Section 597.6 is added to the California Penal Code, to read:
(a) (1) No person may perform, or otherwise procure or arrange for the performance of, surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any cat that is a member of an exotic or native wild cat species, and shall not otherwise alter such a cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent the normal function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws.

(2) This subdivision does not

apply to a procedure performed solely for a therapeutic purpose.
(b) Any person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment in a county jail for a period not to exceed one year, by a fine of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or by both that imprisonment and fine.
(c) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:
"Exotic or native wild cat species" include all members of the taxo-

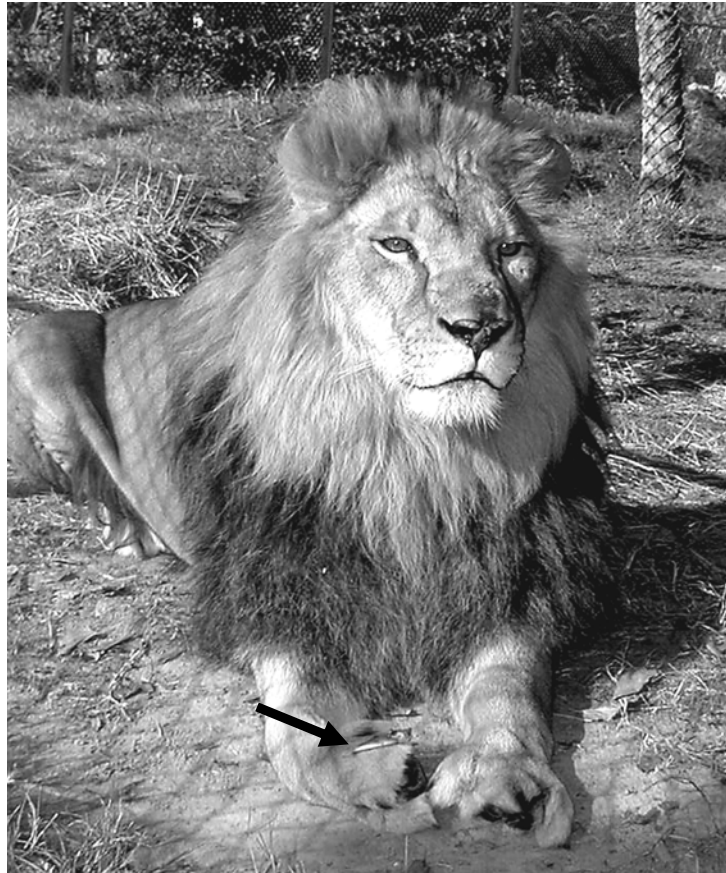
nomnic family Felidae, except domestic cats (*Felis catus* or *Felis domesticus*) or hybrids of wild and domestic cats that are greater than three generations removed from an exotic or native cat. "Therapeutic purpose" means for the purpose of addressing an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claw that jeopardizes the cat's health, where addressing the disease or condition is a medical necessity.

Billboard Wins Sunset Strip/Times Square Award

On July 7, 2004, at the House of Blues on Sunset Boulevard, it was the Paw Project's billboard, "Declawing any cat is a big No-No" that attracted the most attention, winning an unparalleled two "Stripper" awards. The annual billboard awards presentation is sponsored by the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce to honor billboards that have made the biggest impact

on either LA's famed Sunset Strip or New York's Times Square. The panel of judges awarded the Paw Project the trophy for Best Public Service Billboard. The billboard also won the top spot in the People's Choice category by an overwhelming margin. In a field of twelve nominees, it garnered nearly 70% of the total vote.

The billboard was generously donated by Brian and Drake Kennedy of Regency Outdoor Advertising. The photograph of the tiger in India was taken by famed wildlife photographer, Thomas Mangelsen. The artwork was provided by Lisbet Thoresen, and the tag line was collaborative effort of radio personality Mario Machado and Jennifer Conrad.



Denny is an African lion whose former owner brutally declawed him, causing horrible deformity in all four paws. He was confiscated by the Detroit Police in 1997. After a short stay at the Detroit Zoological Park, he came to live at the northern California sanctuary run by Performing Animal Welfare Society (P.A.W.S.). Denny now has a wonderful home, but his feet are crippled due to chronic infections and nail regrowth (black arrow). Denny avoids putting pressure on his painful toes by walking on the sides of his feet. P.A.W.S. was an influential supporter of California's new law, AB 1857, which will prevent exotic cats like Denny from being declawed in the future.

Denny will need two to three corrective surgeries, and the total cost for the facilities, technicians, transportation, and medication will be \$5000 to \$7000. **The Paw Project** donates veterinary care. Your contribution can help Denny and others live their lives without the pain they are suffering today.

I'm enclosing a check to **The Paw Project** to help end the crippling effects of declawing.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 - Student/Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 - Advocate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00 - Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000.00 - Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60.00 - Associate | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1500.00 - Sponsor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 - Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$3000.00 - Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250.00 - Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ - other amount |

Please charge my credit card as follows:

MasterCard Visa Amount \$ _____

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Signature _____

Billing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Thank you. **The Paw Project** is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.