

BILL NUMBER: SB 115				DATE: 4/12/2023
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing				
TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	RMATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONES"	WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C."HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE PHONE NUMBER:			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			·	
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yah	oo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written		IT DATE: /2023 11:40 PM
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I Support this Bill on its face.



BILL NUMBER: SB 115				DATE: 4/12/2023
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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BARB YORK			PHONE NUMB 417-448-94	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ANIMA	L HUSBANDRY ASSO	CIATION	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 554				
CITY: ELDON			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65026
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/12/20	DATE: 23 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	DBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BEN TRAVLOS			PHONE NUME 573-893-1 4	
REPRESENTING: MO FARM BUREA	U		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 701 S. COUNTRY (CLUB DRIVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65109
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/12/20	DATE: 123 12:00 AM
THE INFORMAT	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610. RSMo.



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TESTIFYING: ✓IN:	SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZA	ATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CHURCK BERRY, DVM			PHONE NUMB 573-636-8 (
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VETERINARY I	MEDICAL ASSO	CIATION (MVMA)	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2500 COUNTRY CLUB DR.				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/12/20	OATE: 23 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID WILSON, D	OVM		PHONE NUME 573-636-8	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MISSOURI VETER	ON NAME: INARY MEDICAL ASSO	CIATION (MVMA)	TITLE: MVMA VIO	CE PRESIDENT
ADDRESS: 2500 COUNTRY CLUB DR.				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY	,		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT I 4/12/20	DATE: 123 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	DBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: KAREN STRANGE			PHONE NUME 573-480-2 3	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI FEDER.	ATION OF ANIMAL OWI	NERS	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 554				
CITY: ELDON			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65026
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/12/20	OATE: 23 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FORM	I IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



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TESTIFYING:	✓ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGA	NIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MATT SILVIUS, DVM	l		PHONE NUMB 573-636-8 (
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION IN MISSOURI VETERINA	NAME: ARY MEDICAL ASSO	CIATION (MVMA)	TITLE: MVMA PR	ESIDENT
ADDRESS: 2500 COUNTRY CLUB DR.				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT D 4/12/20	OATE: 023 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☑IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: MIKE DEERING			PHONE NUME 573-499-9	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION MO CATTLEMEN'S			TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 2306 BLUFF CREEK DRIVE				
CITY: COLUMBIA			STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/12/20	DATE: 123 12:00 AM
THE INFORMA	TION ON THIS FOR	M IS PUBLIC RECOR	D UNDER CHA	PTER 610, RSMo.



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TESTIFYING:	☑ IN SUPPORT OF	☐ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: TONY DUGGER			PHONE NUME 417-259-1	
REPRESENTING: MO PET BREEDER	RS ASSOCIATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 730 W. MAIN				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY			STATE: MO	ZIP:
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT I 4/12/20	DATE: 123 12:00 AM
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TESTIFYING:	☐IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LO	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BOB BAKER			PHONE NUME 314-361-3	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ALLIAN	ICE FOR ANIMAL LEG	ISLATION	TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 55 GRASSO PLAZ	A #4309			
CITY: ST. LOUIS			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63123
EMAIL:		ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT 0 4/12/20	DATE: 123 12:00 AM
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MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: SB 115				DATE: 4/12/2023
COMMITTEE: Government Efficiency and Downsizing				
TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO		ATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED L	OBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CODY ATKINSON			PHONE NUME 816-462-3	
REPRESENTING: THUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES			TITLE: STATE DI	RECTOR
ADDRESS: 735 N OSAGE ST				
CITY: INDEPENDENCE			STATE: MO	ZIP: 64050
EMAIL: codyalanatk@gma	ail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 0 4/12/20	DATE: 023 10:36 AM

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The Humane Society opposes this bill as the ordinances in both St. Louis city and county provide for veterinary discretion to still perform the amputation if they so deem it necessary. This bill would further encroach upon the rights of citizens in our states to perform the act of self-governance at a local level. If the ordinance were truly unjust, the judiciary is the path with which that argument should be taken. The people of the city and county participated in the democratic process as is their right as citizens of the United States and the legislature overturning this perfectly reasonable ordinance which does not seek to discriminate or harm any individual would be unjust.



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		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORG	ANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: CORYN JULIEN			PHONE NUM 240-482-	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATIO ALLEY CAT ALLIE			TITLE: COMMUN DIRECTO	NICATIONS DR
ADDRESS: 7920 NORFOLK AVE., SUITE 600				
CITY: BETHESDA			STATE: MD	ZIP: 20814
EMAIL: cjulien@alleycat.o	org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 4/7/20	DATE: 23 9:01 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

April 7, 2023The Honorable Jim Murphy, ChairHouse Government Efficiency and Downsizing CommitteeMissouri House of RepresentativesState Capitol201 W. Capitol Ave. Jefferson City, MO OPPOSE - SB 115 (Brown): Practice of Veterinary MedicineDear Chair Murphy and Committee Members: As a representative of Alley Cat Allies, with our more than 8,000 supporters in Missouri, I am writing to express our strong opposition to SB 115: Practice of Veterinary Medicine, and I urge legislators to vote NO on this bill. If enacted into law, this bill will prohibit local governments from outlawing cat declawing in their cities and counties. The City of St. Louis and St. Louis County have already enacted declawing bans, and those lifesaving laws, and any future local declawing bans in Missouri, would be prohibited by this bill. Alley Cat Allies was first established in 1990 and is the leader of the global movement to protect and improve the lives of cats and kittens. We work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public toward lifesaving humane, nonlethal, effective laws and policies that serve the best interests of cats and the communities in which they live. The people and local government in St. Louis and St. Louis County have exercised their right to eliminate the cruel procedure of cat declawing in their community. That right should not be undermined, nor should the option for other communities to make the same decision. Declawing, also known as onychectomy, is the surgical amputation of a cats' toes that is virtually always performed for nontherapeutic purposes. A common but misguided motivation for declawing is to prevent cats from scratching furniture. Many opponents to declawing bans claim that more cats will be relinquished to shelters by frustrated owners, or never find homes at all, if declaw surgery is no longer permitted. This has not proven to be the case. After the City of Los Angeles banned declawing in 2009, the number of cats being relinquished to shelters decreased by 43 percent. Similarly, a peer-reviewed study on the impact from British Columbia's 2018 ban on declawing concluded that "legislation banning elective onychectomy does not increase the risk of feline shelter relinquishment - for destructive behavior or overall - and is unlikely to have a significant effect on shelter euthanasia or length of stay." The facts demonstrate that declawing itself causes the very behaviors that lead people to relinquish cats. A declawed cat is more likely to exhibit increased aggression and biting to compensate for losing her protective claws, her first line of defense. Declawing also leads to chronic pain, arthritis, balance issues, and back problems. The residual pain associated with declawing also can result in refusal to use the litter box. Biting, aggression, expensive medical issues, and litter box avoidance are among the most common reasons cats lose their homes and are brought to shelters. Thanks to years of humane education and outreach by Alley Cat Allies and The Paw Project, Americans increasingly realize how detrimental declawing can be to a cat's wellbeing. More now know that declawing is a nontherapeutic and unnecessary amputation, not a nail trim. We invite animals into our homes as companions and family members.

Having cats means caring for them, providing for them, and using humane solutions to solve behavioral issues. Claws are an extremely important part of a cat's anatomy and life. Scratching posts, deterrents, regular trimming, nail caps and plenty of toys help to redirect this natural and necessary instinct. For all of the reasons above, declawing bans are being considered and enacted in more communities every year. New York state enacted a ban in 2019, Maryland followed in 2022, and 16 major cities including St. Louis, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver and Pittsburgh also prohibit this procedure. Around the world, at least 42 countries, including Switzerland, Germany, and the United Kingdom, have prohibited the declawing of cats. Missouri should not strip away the ability of its local governments to follow these examples. I respectfully request you and the members of the House Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee to vote NO on SB 115 and maintain the ability of local governments to eliminate this procedure in accordance with the will of their constituents. Sincerely, Coryn Julien Director of Communications Alley Cat Allies



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TESTIFYING:	\square IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	MATIONAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:				
WITNESS NAME: KATRINA UTZ			PHONE NUM 314-749 -	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: ST. LOUIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TITLE: POLIC			ICY ADVISOR	
ADDRESS: 6121 N. HANLEY DR.				
CITY: BERKELEY			STATE: MO	ZIP: 63134
EMAIL: kutz@stlouiscount	ymo.gov	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT 4/12/2	DATE: 2023 11:51 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Saint Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) is writing to inform the Government Efficiency and Downsizing Committee ("Committee") on how Senate Bill 115 could impact health outcomes for the residents and animals of St. Louis County and Missouri at-large. As a public health agency, Saint Louis County Department of Public Health's role is to protect and promote health in St. Louis County, Further, per the Revised Ordinances of St. Louis County, DPH is charged with protection and enhancement of the health and safety of humans in St. Louis County by regulating animals whose conduct is generally harmful to humans and prevention of mistreatment of animals within St. Louis County and protection and enhancement of the health and safety of animals in St. Louis County. Senate Bill 115 would preempt political subdivisions from enforcing or regulating the practices of veterinary medicine, even if such practices do not align with industry standards for population welfare, St. Louis County has passed ordinances related to veterinary medicine based on local needs and best practice in the field. The authority to enact local ordinances gives jurisdictions the opportunity to shape provisions in a manner most appropriate to their local circumstances. This legislation preempts St. Louis County's current restriction on onychectomy, or cat declawing, and the County's restriction of using intracardiac lethal injection for euthanasia unless specific criteria are met.St. Louis County opted to restrict instances of onychectomy due to the negative risks associated for both the animals undergoing the procedure and their owners. This procedure does not simply remove the animal's toenails; it amputates the distal phalanx, the entire last knuckle of the cat's toe. Onychectomies are not routinely performed for medically necessary reasons. Most animal welfare associations oppose this operation because it often leads to poor outcomes for the animal and does not provide expected benefits to owners. Furthermore, complications are common and heighten the animal's risk for life altering pain, infection, or more severe health outcomes later in life. One of the most common reasons owners relinquish their pets results from pet aggression, which can increase after an onychectomy. Experts cite that a cat's propensity to bite increases if it has undergone an onychectomy since it can no longer scratch as a means of defense1, . This poses a public health concern since bites are more likely to cause worse outcomes to owners, such as infections, compared to scratching. Other, nonsurgical options exist for addressing the concerns most often associated with elective onychectomy. In rare situations where it is medically necessary for the animal's health or beneficial for therapeutic reasons for the animal, onychectomy is still permissible under current St. Louis County ordinance.St. Louis County also passed an ordinance restricting the use of intracardiac lethal injection in animals that are property of the County housed at our shelter. For euthanasia, animals must be properly anesthetized or sedated per guidance promulgated by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). This is the standard of care for humane euthanasia and is expected in most cases within our shelter. Exceptions exist when the animal poses a significant risk to personnel involved in the

euthanasia process or if the method of euthanasia would result in more trauma or physical pain to the animal. Even though the shelter adheres to standards established by the AVMA, the County adopted this ordinance to codify humane euthanasia and set the expectation that all animals, in our shelter or in the community, should be treated humanely and with dignity. Stripping the County of its ability to enact ordinances like these does not comport with the County's belief in humane treatment of animals. Separately from these concerns, veterinarians, in providing "care or treatment" to animals, are currently exempt from anti-cruelty statutes in Missouri. The actions for which veterinarians are not legally liable include statutory provisions where others may be held liable, such as intentionally spreading animal disease, failing to adequately care for animals in their custody, purposely causing injury or suffering to animals, and more. Given that language in the statute, political subdivisions are left to provide oversight of such practices in their jurisdictions. Should Senate Bill 115 be adopted, Missouri would have an extremely limited mechanism for upholding industry standards of care or treatment in veterinary medicine. This includes practices such as declawing, debarking, tail docking without anesthesia, euthanizing with inhuman methodology—but also prevents other, harder to imagine malpractices from receiving accountability or punishment. Based on the details provided herein, DPH is concerned with the public health implications for both animals and residents in our state should Senate Bill 115 pass. We appreciate the opportunity to provide the Committee with our expertise. Thank you for your time and careful review of this information.1. Martell-Moran NK, Solano M. Townsend HG. Pain and adverse behavior in declawed cats. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. 2018;20(4):280-288. doi: 10.1177/1098612X17705044.2. The Human Society of the United States. (2023). Why declawing is bad for your cat: Learn the facts about declawing and better solutions for scratching. https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/why-declawing-bad-your-cat#:~:text=Declawing%20can% 20cause%20paw%20pain,nerve%20damage%20and%20bone%20spurs.



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TESTIFYING: IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES	
	WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:				
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD MCINTOSH		PHONE NUMB 573-257-0 0		
REPRESENTING: ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE LEGISLATIVE FUND TITLE:				
ADDRESS: 612 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE				
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101	
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 4/12/2023 12:00 AM		
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TESTIFYING:	☐ IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFOR	MATIO	NAL PURPOSES
		WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:					
WITNESS NAME: SEAN KIERAN BR	RENNAN		PHONE NU	IMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:		
ADDRESS:					
CITY:			STATE:		ZIP:
EMAIL: sean.brennan@w	ustl.edu	ATTENDANCE: In-Person		T DATE: 2023 3:	10 PM
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TESTIFYING:	☐IN SUPPORT OF	✓ IN OPPOSITION TO	☐FOR INFORM	ATIONAL PURPOSES
WITNESS NAME				
INDIVIDUAL:				
WITNESS NAME: SUSAN GIBSON			PHONE NUME	BER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION	ON NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:				
CITY:			STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: Onesuegibson@p	orotonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT I 4/8/202	DATE: 2 3 2:21 PM
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Invites animal abuse.