

Legislative  
Assembly  
of Ontario



Assemblée  
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70 ELIZABETH II, 2021

# Bill 53

## **An Act to amend the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 to prohibit non-essential cat declawing**

**Ms M. Stiles**

**Private Member's Bill**

1st Reading      November 18, 2021

2nd Reading

3rd Reading

Royal Assent



**An Act to amend the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019  
to prohibit non-essential cat declawing**

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

**1 The *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019* is amended by adding the following section:**

**Partial digital amputation of cats**

**17.1** (1) No person shall permit, cause, encourage, promote, arrange, conduct, assist in, receive a financial or material benefit for or take part in the partial digital amputation of a cat unless a veterinarian providing veterinary care in accordance with the standards of practice established under the *Veterinarians Act* has determined that the partial digital amputation would not constitute a medically unnecessary veterinary surgery.

**Definitions**

(2) In this section,

“medically unnecessary veterinary surgery” means a veterinary surgery that is not required or is not in the animal’s overall best interest; (“acte chirurgical vétérinaire inutile sur le plan médical”)

“partial digital amputation” means the surgical removal of the third phalanx of each digit on a cat’s front paws or front and rear paws. (“amputation partielle des doigts”)

**2 Subsection 49 (2) of the Act is amended by adding the following clause:**

(d.1) section 17.1 (Partial digital amputation of cats);

**Commencement**

**3 This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.**

**Short title**

**4 The short title of this Act is *Teddy’s Law (Anti-Declawing), 2021*.**

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill amends the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019* to add section 17.1. Section 17.1 prohibits the partial digital amputation of a cat unless a veterinarian has determined that the procedure would not constitute a medically unnecessary veterinary surgery.