

Proposal 2: Amend Show Rule 23.5, 216.14 (Declawed Cats)

Rationale:

TICA has an express, written policy that it does not condone the practice of “declawing” cats but allows such cats to be shown. The express, written rationale for this is that some exhibitors have adopted declawed cats. In practice, however, the current rules allow breeders and pet owners to declaw cats and still show them in all classes in TICA. In fact, pedigreed cats - that were declawed by the exhibitor - have been recently shown in TICA.

The proposed changes would limit the exhibition of declawed cats and kittens to only the household pet classes.

There are two exceptions to this:

- The exhibitor can provide written and signed documentation by a veterinarian that the amputation was medically necessary for treating the cat’s injury or disease.
- “Grand-fathering” those cats or kittens that were shown, registered, and declawed prior to the effective date, allowing them to continue being shown if the exhibitor provides documentation proving eligibility for the exception. This exception was added because individuals who have previously registered their declawed cats with TICA for purposes of showing their cat(s) in all classes should get the full benefit of the registration fee paid.

While the practice of declawing was widespread in the past, education regarding the extent of the procedure and the impact it has on the cat’s behavior and gait has decreased the practice extensively within the US. Elsewhere in the world, several countries ban (or even criminalize) the procedure. TICA is an international cat association and should reflect the views of its members and also the evolution of humane veterinarian practices.

Pros:

It supports the sentiment of the international cat community that declawing cats is an unacceptable practice.

Allows previously shown declawed cats to continue being shown (subject to verification).

Cons:

Allowing declawed HHP/HHPKs to be shown may devalue those classes.

Counts and awards for other exhibitors may be affected if a declawed cat is incorrectly shown and removed from the count after the show.

Amend Show Rule 23.5:

23.5 A cat not having all physical properties, such as eyes, ears, legs, tail (except as specified in breed standards), is ineligible for entry except in the alter class or household pet classes. **A declawed cat or kitten is ineligible for entry except in the household pet classes, i.e., household pet and household pet kitten, unless the exhibitor submits documentary proof, signed by a licensed veterinarian, certifying that the absence of the claw(s) is due to the cat or kitten's injury or disease.**

23.5.1 EXCEPTION: Any cat or kitten that was registered, declawed, and actively shown prior to [effective date of enactment] may continue to be entered in all classes if the exhibitor submits documentary proof of the following:

23.5.1.1 Date of TICA registration prior to [effective date of enactment];

23.5.1.2 Active show status prior to [effective date of enactment]; and

23.5.1.3 Written proof, signed by a veterinarian, certifying date of the declaw procedure prior to [effective date of enactment].

23.5.2 Documentation required for entry of a declawed cat in a class other than household pet classes as set forth in Show Rule 23.5 and 23.5.1 must be submitted with the entry form. Copies of that documentation shall be submitted to the Executive Office with the Master Catalog. Any documentation found to be invalid will result in entries not being counted.

Amend Show Rule 216.4:

216.14 Cats **and kittens** that have been declawed **and are eligible for entry pursuant to Show Rule 23.5 and 23.5.1** shall not be penalized. **If entered in any class other than household pet or household pet kitten, the judge should ask show management if the declawed cat or kitten is eligible for entry. If not eligible for entry pursuant to Show Rule 23.5 or 23.5.1, the declawed cat shall be withdrawn from the competition.**