



Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine

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Statement Regarding Minnesota SF No. 1935

Minnesota Senate File No. 1935 addresses the practice of elective declawing in cats, proposing restrictions on procedures not deemed medically necessary. The bill outlines specific conditions under which declawing may be permitted, such as therapeutic necessity determined by a licensed veterinarian.

To better understand stakeholder perspectives, two independent surveys were conducted among veterinary professionals and community members. The results revealed fairly equal division of opinions, support and opposition were closely represented across respondents along with 10% support with changes.

A third survey was recently conducted by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association with 783 responses summarized as follows: elective declawing among small animal DVMs is increasingly rare, with only 30% still offering it—typically under strict conditions—while most have stopped in the past decade, and recent graduates are least likely to perform the procedure. The complete survey results can be requested from MVMA.

As this legislation progresses through the legislative process, the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine remains committed to monitoring developments and ensuring that any enacted provisions align with professional standards and the welfare of animals under veterinary care.