

November 21, 2017

FROM SHEPLER

Hey Debbie. I see you help out Lake Haven. I know you must care about all animals. Is there anyway you can inspire Cheryl to stop ordering up declaws for all the kittens. I'm not sure why Michigan is so stuck in the dark ages when it comes to this inhumane and mutilating procedure but the facts are that no matter how it's done or what age, it always harms the long-term health and well-being of a cat. All the needs to be done she can educate the public about how inhumane declawing is and teach them about the simple, commonsense humane alternatives like nail trims, sturdy scratchers, and Soft paws. I was born in Michigan and it is just so sad to see a rescue doing this unnecessary cat cruelty to so many kittens and cats. Thanks for what you do to help animals. Btw Denver just banned declawing fyi. And did you know that it's banned or considered unethical in most of the rest of the world and not performed. Just one example, if a vet declaws a cat in Israel, they would go to jail for a year and pay a \$20,000 fine because it is so cruel and mutilating to cats.

FROM CULBERTSON

November 23, 2017

Hi Lori. Yes I do volunteer for Lake Haven. I've been a cat foster for over three years now. I've had almost 100 cats go through my home. These were cats in shelter saved because Cheryl got a call saying if they didn't get pulled they were going to be euthanized. These were cats dumped in the woods or abandoned in houses after their owners left them. There are countless stories of where they came from, but in all cases they are truly rescued. If it wasn't for Cheryl and Lake Haven these animals would be dead. The luck ones would be put down in shelters. Many would face horrible suffering. I appreciate your passion, but the reality is declawed cats get adopted faster. It sucks, but it's true. I've seen it myself. Many apartments and landlords won't let people have cats unless they're declawed. We do try to educate. If an adopter doesn't want the procedure done, we don't do it. We don't declaw older cats. But again the reality. We need cats to be adopted before we can take in more. We only have so many fosters and so much space. We're trying to save lives and we can't do that if the cats don't get adopted. The faster they go, the more we save. Yes people need to be educated. Keep speaking up. Educate. That's fantastic, but as long as that demand is there, and that helps find them good forever homes, we'll continue to declaw. I also must say I disagree with your opinion of the effects on the cats. Sure there are horror stories in anything if you choose to find them, but again almost 100 cats through my home. None, absolutely none, have ever had an issue with a declaw. They are up and playing the next day. We stay in contact with our adopters. No issues. I do this because I love these cats. I can tell you the name of every kitty I've had here and all about them. They are my babies. I love them all. If I believed that declawing was that detrimental to them I wouldn't be a part of this group. They are literally up and playing the next day. I've seen zero long or even short term effects. So please, keep educating. Hopefully some day people will understand declawing isn't necessary. I pray for that day. Until then we'll keep trying to save as many lives as we can.

From SHEPLER

Hey Debbie. Thanks for the nice note and Happy Thanksgiving. I work on this cause with my famous cat, City the Kitty, 16 hour days seven days a week as a volunteer because of all the horrific suffering I see. I understand where you guys are coming from but the sad part is that yes you are putting all those cats and homes but they are silently suffering for the rest of their lives. I'm not sure if you know that cats are notorious for hiding their pain and suffering but that's a fact. When they walk on those toe bone amputations it causes all sorts of long-term negative problems. Not to mention that cats need their claws for strengthening their back muscles and body. You should read about these new studies that show no matter how it's done it causes long-term problems in all cats. Also I'm wondering why Cheryl is so against having a campaign herself to educate the public. She seems so against that concept. Why not do what all other shelters and rescues do in America and that is speak out against it and then people will listen and trust their judgment. no one is better to educate the public then Cheryl because they would listen. Here's the story <https://www.drmartybecker.com/veterinary-medicine/evidence-declawing-cats-just-keeps-mounting/>

Thanks for what you do to help all those kitties but just remember they are all silence of pain because they had their toe bones and paw amputated. Claws are so much about what make up a cat and so important for their health and well being. God wouldn't have given them to cats if they were useless. They are incredibly important for all aspects of the cats health. That's why it is banned in cities and is banned in the rest of the world or not performed. Remember cats can't talk to you and tell you how they feel. Because you think you don't see the negative problems, they are there and those poor cats have to live a lifetime walking unnaturally on those amputations. It's just so bad for them.

FROM CULBERTSON

Happy thanksgiving to you too. Cheryl has been in rescue for many years now. Many, MANY years. She's saved literally thousands upon thousands of animals. It is her life. It's what she does 24/7. In fact she's been so successful in setting up low cost spay and neuter clinics that the numbers of cats going into shelters in our area has gone down drastically and puppies are almost unheard of. At this point she's starting to work with shelters in other states to save their overflow of animals as the numbers here continue to decline. Still every day for her is dealing with life and death issues. There is always an emergency popping up. Then on top of this, on a regular basis she gets harassing phone calls, emails, and FB attacks telling her how cruel her rescue is because we declaw. These are not civil discussions like we're having here. These are bombardments of her, and everyone she works with slamming her and everything she does. She's over it. The sad part is she is also not a fan of declawing and we do a lot to try to educate people on how unnecessary it is but these people just want to hurl insults. She's trying to save lives. She doesn't have the time or the patience for that shit. She's spent the majority of her life dedicating it to this cause, and these people get on FB and slam her and the rescue. How is that helping anyone? So she's not against your cause, at this point she just heard quite enough from your messengers. Keep up the good fight. I wish you luck. It's an practice that really does need to be changed. Again, Happy thanksgiving.☺

FROM SHEPLER

City the kitty asks all his followers to always take the high road and just educate. Everything you said about what she does is wonderful but unfortunately she is causing serious harm to hundreds and hundreds of cats lives. Unnecessarily. She is an actively trying to educate the public because she doesn't feel there's a problem with it because Dr. Breuker uses her expensive laser to burn off the cat's toes and claws. It's my purpose to educate people about the facts and Cheryl isn't listening. How do you suggest we can make changes in your town so that Cheryl will stop maiming these kittens for life who never deserved that fate and were never given a chance to live their lives free of pain and suffering and like they should as a cat. I'm not going to walk away from this issue. I did a couple years ago and the fact that she still doing it all these kittens really upsets me because she doesn't want to change and she doesn't want to inspire all of her adopters to be humane cat owners who care about the welfare of their cats. It's a very ignorant mindset that many cat owners in Michigan have and all it takes is education. The rest of the country and the rest of the world is on board with this so why can't Michigan and the Midwest where for some reason the ignorance about this barbaric and inhumane procedure is rampant. Think about it there are such easy humane solutions like nail trims and study scratchers that work. It's rare that the cat has serious scratching issues they can't be dealt with with a little training and deterrents. I don't think Cat owners in Michigan are sadistic cat abusers and like to torture their cat so there has to be hope. People like Cheryl could make the difference but She doesn't seem to care because she's choosing to be willfully ignorant about the procedure. People are sending me these reviews and they are all over the Internet about Cheryl. ATTACHED SCREENSHOT

FROM CULBERTSON

That is a perfect example of the crap we deal with. Yes you have to fill out an application to get an animal. OF COURSE YOU DO!! It's one page. ONE. Yes we want to talk to a vet. We want to know our animals will be well cared for. Yes you need to be approved before you can show up at my home to visit my cats. However we adopt out not declawed cats all the time. "We can't adopt them if they aren't declawed" is a flat out lie. This to me is a perfect example of someone slamming our rescue because they are against declaw. You call Cheryl and insult her, her rescues or her practices, yes, she's going to be rude. Trying to drive people away from our rescue with lies is disgusting, and certainly not a way to help the cause. I can certainly understand why Cheryl isn't open to talking to a person like that.

FROM SHEPLER

and the cats in shelters actually went down in the 5 years after the declaw bans in 8 cities in Ca.

the biggest shelter in the world is against declawing.

why won't Cheryl do a high profile campaign against declawing with the facts. Just because she sees her kittens jumping around the next day after they've had their toe bones and claws barbarically burned off by her unethical Dr Breuker who is deceiving her about this procedure. They buy those \$35,000 laser machines and need to do a lot of declaws to pay it back. It's insane how so many people in Michigan seem to be stuck in the dark ages and can't use their brains and heart to realize that declawing is so wrong and bad for the health and well being of a cat. Is my only hope to find a city council member in Newaygo who would introduce a bill like Denver did and ban it? It unanimously passed 14-0 because they all know it is cat cruelty and wrong. What do you suggest I do that would make a change so Cheryl won't declaw those kittens before she puts them up for adoption? How about her doing a campaign and EDUCATE the public and NOT declaw them. Let those people take their cats to their own vet if they want to destroy its life and mutilate its paws. But if you educate people, 95% wouldn't do that. Sheesh

American Association of Feline practitioners came out a couple months ago and said they are completely against declawing. Does Cheryl know more than all these experts? If so, she should send me her info. All she does is call me a "radical" "twisted" and a "lunatic" in her emails and all my notes to her have been respectful and just trying to educate her about the facts. I really think she has some serious issues and is just being willfully ignorant and her main goal is to get as many cats in homes and she doesn't care if she harms their health and well being. That's truly a bad human being to have that mentality if you ask me.

The reason I sent you that review is because there are lots of them and the part I was talking about was the declawing part. It is truly shocking and appalling that any person who runs a rescue or shelter automatically declaw cats and kittens before they are adopted out. I will not give up on this battle because those poor kittens don't deserve what they are being put through and it is just sickening that she won't work harder to educate the people in her area. There's nothing else I can say to you that would probably get through so if you have any suggestions I'm open to them but I am not going to stop. Last week I worked really hard on a campaign to get Texas coalition of animal protection to finally stop declawing and guess what. They knew they were doing something wrong and they took everything about declaws off their website and now they are not booking them anymore. They knew they were wrong and they did the right thing stopped and they are the biggest organization in Texas that does spays and neuters. People are sick

and tired of organizations that are supporting for performing the clause and it's time that it stopped. Enough is enough there is enough facts and evidence out there that it is inhumane and cruelty and harms a cat for its lifetime. If you think people are upset, they are and they have every right to be because Cheryl is doing something that is unconscionable and Wrong and she is cruelly harming lots and lots of cats unnecessarily.

FROM CULBERTSON

Tackling it at the city and state level I imagine is the way to go. Cheryl is going to remain a closed door. She had to deal with far too many abusive lunatics attacking her and posing as adopters. She's done listening. I don't blame her. Again I wish you luck.

FROM SHEPLER

and I've worked hard to inspire property management companies to take out the declawing requirement. Send me the names of apartment companies that require it in your area and I will get them to take it out. Easy peasy <http://www.citythekitty.com/property-management-companies-who-care-about-their-tenants-and-cats/>

she could simply stop declawing and put a poster on the cage that shows why cats need their claws and let people do that cruelty themselves. But it's sad that y'all think it's more important to get a cat in a warm home and let it suffer silently while the ugly sofas and furniture lives a life free of scratches and harm. It's beyond comprehension and the truth is that Cheryl is a cat abuser and not a good human being for knowing the facts and ugly truth about declawing and not changing her antiquated and barbaric ways. When good human beings know better, they do better. Sad that Cheryl is so stubborn and showing her true colors. Bye

And it's sad that you don't blame her. She could do something that would be so simple to change the course of her mutilating ways but all of you are just coddling her and enabling her by not speaking up. When you are neutral in situations of injustice you are choosing the side of the animal abuser. So sad. But it shows how Cheryl is such a bad leader that She doesn't foster an atmosphere of openness and understanding. It's sad that her legacy is tainted with such a disturbing fact that she has ordered up such a barbaric and mutilating procedure on hundreds and probably thousands of cats and truly harmed their lives in ways that she just couldn't believe because she was such an ass and always had to be right. It's sad that people are defending what she's doing by talking about all of the good that she's done. I mean if this had to do with children, would you say it's better to get them out of foster homes and into a home even if it means getting into a home with a child abuser. It's the same thing. She just wants the cats in a home no matter what condition they're in and that is truly a sick person. Ok. I'm done with this. Hopefully someday people like you can be strong enough to try to inspire her to simply educate the public

and stop doing that mutilating procedure but from the sounds of how she treats everyone, it doesn't seem possible that anyone will be strong enough to speak up to her.

FROM CULBERTSON

And I find it sad that you would rather see cats die in shelters, starve to death or waist away of diseases over being declawed. My priority is find these cats homes where they will be loved and fed the rest of their natural days. My priority is life. Yours is toes. That's fine. Agree to disagree. I just hope that people find better ways to engage. Lies, insults and attacks are not the way to rally people to your cause. Attacking people in an organization you know virtually nothing about except one aspect of is not the way to do it. We are all animal lovers. We all want essentially the same thing. We are all trying to do our part. I wish you the best.

FROM SHEPLER

It's sad that you are using this very antiquated excuse to justify mutilating a cat and getting it in a home. I just sent you all this information and even statistics that show after a declawing ban the cat's in shelters went down. First of all I've already told you that I always inspire my cats followers to be respectful and educational. As many people do who justify this barbaric and mutilating procedure, they play the victim game and it is completely appalling. People are really sick and tired of hearing the BS excuses like what you just said to excuse their ways of harming all of these cats. Newsflash. If you educate the public you can get all those cats into homes without causing them a lifetime of pain and suffering. I'm shocked that you people would justify it in that way. Any owner that wants to do this barbaric procedure to their cat shouldmy have a cat in the first place. It's mind-boggling that so many people in your state in the Midwest are so stuck in the dark ages with their mentality and perspective. But I guess you all want to stay ignorant about it so that you don't feel you're really harming cats which is just so terrible and shameful. Finding good homes for cats means finding owners who are not selfish, uneducated or uninformed. Owners who want mutilated and deformed cats shouldn't be allowed to have them. Any good and humane shelter director or rescue director would start with that as a priority and not do what Cheryl and you are doing and that is justifying it because it gets a cat into a home.

And any person with a heart and brain would agree just as I said the child abuse analogy. If you say oh I want to get all children out of foster homes and that doesn't matter they're being put into a home with a child abuser. At least they are out of foster homes and in a warm home.

It's completely absurd how you all are just so choosing to be doing something that is cat cruelty and wrong. But thanks for showing me that really there's no hope in trying to inspire people like you and Cheryl and we must go to the community level and go to legislators because you all are just choosing to stay stuck in your antiquated excuses and perspectives.

Are there other local rescues in your area or is lake haven the only one? If there are others, what are their names. Thanks.



FROM CULBERTSON

I've been called ignorant, barbaric, heartless, brainless and cruel, just to name a few, while I have said nothing negative against you or your beliefs. Why on earth would I give you names of other local rescues? So you can message them this Thanksgiving day and tell them what horrible people they are? Try Googling it.

FROM SHEPLER

Wow. Way to play the victim Debbie when I said none of those things. Reread my words on a day that you can see clearly. Obviously you can't see any other side of it, like Cheryl, than the absurd perspective that amputating a cat's toe bones and claws and causing a lifetime of some sort of pain and suffering is better than a cat dying. Guess what. I believe in getting a cat out of a shelter, not killing it, and not amputating its toe bones and claws and causing pain and suffering. It's what the rest of the the country and world does so why can't rescue directors, fosters, and cat owners in Michigan believe in this too? And I wanted to reach out to other rescues in the area who I was assuming don't automatically declaw their kittens and cats. But now you have me worried. Take care and maybe you can pray and ask God what his take on this is. I doubt if he would condone mutilating his perfect creatures just to protect a sofa and get a cat in a home with humans who condone this cat cruelty. Just saying.

and I don't have "beliefs" fyi. They are facts. Facts that show declawing is inhumane, mutilating, harmful to the health and well being of a cat, cruel, and very unnecessary. You and Cheryl and all the nice folks who condone this barbaric procedure are the ones who have "beliefs."