



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO VETERINARIANS

"Dedicated to wildlife health and conservation"

581705 White Oak Road • Yulee, Florida, 32097 • 904-225-3275 • Fax 904-225-3289

DECLAWING CAPTIVE EXOTIC AND WILD INDIGENOUS CATS

AVMA Policy-The AVMA opposes declawing captive exotic and other wild indigenous cats for nonmedical reasons.

AAZV Position – Support AVMA Policy

JUSTIFICATION - Because of their size, weight, and environment, exotic and wild cats commonly experience adverse effects when onychectomy is performed. Therefore, the AAZV believes the procedure is ill advised for these cats, unless required for medical reasons.

AAZV CONTACT –

Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, Dipl. ACZM

Wm. Kirk Suedmeyer, DVM, Dip ACZM
President, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
Director of Animal Health and Research
Director of Emergency Medical Services
The Kansas City Zoo
6800 Zoo Drive
Kansas City, MO 64132-1711
wksahc@juno.com