

# STATE OF NEW YORK

796

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

(Prefiled)

January 8, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture

AN ACT to amend the agriculture and markets law, in relation to prohib-  
iting the declawing and descenting of ferrets

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assem-  
bly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The agriculture and markets law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 387 to read as follows:

3 § 387. Prohibition of the declawing and descenting of ferrets. 1. For  
4 the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the follow-  
5 ing meanings:

6 (a) "Ferret" shall mean the domestic species *Mustela furo*.

7 (b) "Declawing" shall mean a procedure, such as an onychectomy, tendo-  
8 nectomy or phalangectomy, to remove or prevent the normal function of  
9 the claws of a ferret.

10 (c) "Descenting" shall mean a procedure involving the surgical removal  
11 or destruction of the anal glands of a ferret.

12 (d) "Therapeutic purpose" shall mean the necessity to address the  
13 physical medical condition of a ferret, such as an existing or recurring  
14 illness, infection, disease, injury or abnormal condition in the claw or  
15 anal glands that compromises such ferret's health. Therapeutic purpose  
16 shall not include cosmetic or aesthetic reasons or reasons of conven-  
17 ience in keeping or handling such ferret.

18 2. No person shall perform a declawing or a descenting procedure by  
19 any means on a ferret within the state of New York, except when neces-  
20 sary for a therapeutic purpose and performed by a licensed veterinarian.

21 3. Any person who performs a declawing or descenting procedure on any  
22 ferret in the state of New York in violation of the provisions of subdi-  
23 vision two of this section shall be punishable by a civil penalty not to  
24 exceed one thousand dollars.

25 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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