



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

SEP 29 2017

Dear Executive Directors,

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) appreciates the dedication of Public Housing Authorities (PHA), and recognizes the responsibilities your agencies are entrusted with in meeting the affordable housing goals of the community. This correspondence offers guidance related to the concern that some PHAs are requiring public housing tenants to have their cats declawed as a condition of pet ownership in public housing.

HUD's position is that cat declawing is not a requirement or condition of pet ownership in public housing. Given the current Federal regulations under 24 C.F.R. §960.707(c) restricting PHAs from requiring the removal of any pet's vocal cords, an inference can be made that the intent of this regulation was to prevent cruelty and inhumane treatment of animals. Cat declawing, as a matter of public policy, is considered inhumane and is no longer recommended by veterinarians. As a reference, please see The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' policy and position statement: <https://www.aspca.org/about-us/aspca-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-declawing-cats>.

Thank you for all you do to advance our shared mission of serving the housing needs of the most vulnerable members of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurel L. Davis".

Laurel L. Davis, Director  
Office of Public Housing