

The CatChannel Newswire (Updated: 09-30-08)

Top stories: Prosecutors may seek retrial in cat-cruelty case; Tails of the City: The declawing debate.

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Prosecutors May Seek Retrial in N.Y. Cat-Cruelty Case

Prosecutors said Monday that they are considering a retrial of the former minor-league pitcher and actor who killed his girlfriend's cat. Jurors on Friday deadlocked 11-1 at the felony aggravated animal cruelty trial of Joseph Petcka. Petcka has said he didn't mean to hurt the cat, but overreacted when he was bitten, the Associated Press reports.

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The Declawing Debate: Yes or No?

Journalist Melissa Rayworth recently wrote about the declawing issue for the Associated Press. The subject of her story, Kara Johnson, had her two cats declawed after trying everything from scratching posts and bottles of citrus spray to blasts of canned air and plastic nail covers to prevent them from destroying her apartment (and each other). Rayworth writes: "For Johnson, ultimately, it was necessary. For animal-rights activists, it was nothing short of torture," the San Francisco Chronicle reports.

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New L.A. City Law Requires Neutering of Most Pets. What Should Cat Owners Do?

The Week Ahead/Ask a reporter: My pet is not neutered yet, and the new city law requiring neutering of most cats and dogs goes into effect Wednesday, Oct. 1. What should I do? The Los Angeles Times reports.

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