

April 13, 2018

Rebuttal from Lori Shepler regarding the PPO document.

- MCCLLOUD checked the box that said “The Respondent threatened to kill or physically injure me.” She said, “The respondent is exciting her associates to either harm or hurt me in some fashion.”

**FACTS- I never threatened to kill or physically injure MCCLLOUD and I never asked my cat’s follower to do those things to MCCLLOUD. I asked my cat’s followers to be respectful and take the high road and make educational comments. My main messages in my posts were to try to educate Cheryl McCloud and her supporters and the public about the facts about declawing and how it always harms the health and well being of a cat and kitten.**

- MCCLLOUD checked the box that said, “The respondent interfered with me at my job or is threatening my job relationship or environment. “ She said, “The respondent and her associates are communicating with the stores that provide housing to our cats and kittens by phone and messages using inappropriate language.”

**FACTS- I called the Pet Supplies Plus manager , Scott on 11/29/17, and asked him if he would help us educate the public about declawing and I could provide him with the educational material. Not once did I use inappropriate language and in fact we had a nice conversation and he said I could email him the poster that talked about why cats need their toes and claws.**

- MCCLLOUD said, “ The respondent has posted on social media for her associates to view her belief that Cheryl McCloud is torturing and mutilating cats.

**FACTS- I never said those words that Cheryl McCloud is torturing and mutilating cats in any post. I tried to inspire people to educate the public, Cheryl, and her supporters about this inhumane and mutilating procedure and how it always harms the health and well being of a kitten and cat.**

- MCCLLOUD said, On Nov 24 I received an email from Lori Shepler, who has an organization called City the Kitty, with a demand that I never declaw any of my rescue kittens.

**FACTS- I never once sent her an email demanding she stop declawing her rescue kittens. I tried to educate her about the facts about declawing and in one of the emails asked her what I needed to do to**

**get her to not declaw a litter of kittens that were scheduled to be declawed. I told her I would find homes for them if she didn't declaw them. I offered to pay her money for the kittens to get them in homes with their toe bones and claws. She went ahead and had them declawed.**

- MCCLOUD said, "She claimed it was illegal and that all cats that are declawed are "crippled for life."

**FACTS- I never once said that declawing was illegal in Michigan in an email to Cheryl or in a post. I've never used the words "crippled for life" in any post on social media or email to Cheryl. I have told Cheryl that declawing is illegal in many countries in the world and it is not performed in many countries because of how inhumane and mutilating it is.**

- MCCLOUD said, She and her associates launched a campaign of hate and threatened violence.

**FACTS- I launched a respectful and educational campaign about trying to inspire Cheryl McCloud to just educate the public about declawing and tried to educate her, the public in Michigan, and Cheryl's supporters about the facts about declawing and how it always harms the health and well being of a cat and kitten long term**

7) MCCLOUD said, "They bombarded the Bissell facebook page with threats and misinformation and scared Cathy Bissell enough that she told them she would not fund our spay/neuter program for Newaygo County again.

**FACTS- I reached out to ask Cathy Bissell if this information in the PPO was true and Ms Bissell wrote this back to me, "She is wrong in saying that I was scared. I was bombarded but it was my choice to make the decision I made as I didn't ever realize the suffering from declawing until it was brought to my attention. I did not receive threats but I was harassed all weekend that is true. I mentioned to you on the phone that I would never be bullied by anyone. My decision to not fund Cheryl came from understanding what declawing meant. I agree that it should not be done. I am sad that a rescue would declaw prior to adoption. I have already changed my grant application to reflect that decision. The more I understand the better I can be at what I do. I wish Cheryl could step back and look at the voice of reason. "**

8) MCCLOUD said, "The phrase they use is that "I am torturing and mutilating animals."

**FACTS- I've never used the phrase, "She is torturing and mutilating animals" in any posts or emails that I sent to Cheryl.**

**I have said that declawing is a mutilating procedure and that is a fact.**

9) MCCLOUD said, "She is slandering me and my veterinarians publicly and frightening my volunteers.

**FACTS- I have only made truthful statements publicly and privately about this issue and situation. I've never threatened any of her volunteers and have only had a few respectful and educational email exchanges with a few of her volunteers to try to educate them about the facts about declawing.**

- **MCCLOUD said, "They are disrupting my business, harassing my veterinarians, my volunteers, adoption centers, Newaygo County Animal Shelter, Newaygo County High School, Bissell Pet Foundation, and scaring me to death with threats of violence."**

**FACTS- I never once disrupted or harassed any of those organizations or people. It was all in respectful and educational correspondence.**

- MCCLOUD attached a screenshot with the comment, "Lori Shepler badgering and harassing my volunteer Deb Culbertson Thanksgiving Day."

**FACTS- I wrote Debbie Culbertson a respectful private note on facebook November 21, 2017 and Debbie answered the note on Thanksgiving. We had a respectful back and forth dialogue and I tried to educate her about the facts about declawing. She then blocked me.**

REBUTTAL from Lori Shepler regarding the comments from the hearing on March 21, 2018

THE COURT- For example, she's basically saying a particular lady wrote to 19 the Better Business Bureau. What's of key importance is whether or not Ms. Shepler put that lady up to doing it. And Ms. McCloud says, by golly, she did; I've got an email or something to prove it.

**FACTS- Maris Tippet had first contacted me on facebook in a private note on November 30, and told me about her problems with her lake haven declawed kitty. On Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> in the morning before I received the PPO in the mail, I did a post on CTK Advocate page asking for anyone to come forward if they had adopted a declawed cat from lake haven and did it have any problems.**

**I never asked Maris Tippet to contact the Better Business Bureau and file a complaint.**

MCCLLOUD- Yes, she has contacted the high school that was doing my 9 portraits of my rescued pets, called them repeatedly to 10 the point where they finally blocked her and would not answer her phone calls.

**FACTS- Attached is the email that I sent to the Newaygo High School art dept teacher. I never called them repeatedly and they didn't block me because I was calling from a phone that didn't display my phone number. From what I remember, I called the front desk at the High School and left two nice messages for the art dept teacher.**

MCCLLOUD- She called my veterinarians and emailed my veterinarians over, and over again demanding 13 that we stop declawing cats.

**FACTS- I emailed her vet Dr Marie Brueker three times and the emails were respectful and I tried to inspire her to educate Cheryl about the facts about declawing. I also asked her if I could find people to rescue the kitties that were set to be declawed or pay her and/or Cheryl money to save them from not declawing them.**

**I never called her vets and demanded that they stop declawing cats.**

MCCLLOUD- "When this first happened, when Lorie Shepler hit me first on 8 November 24th with an email, she emailed me, she demanded -- this is not a situation where she's making suggestions. She's not telling me about the pros and cons of declaws. She demanded that I stop or else. She unleashed her volunteer -- her force on me. I would wake up to sometimes 30 or 40 emails a day. Personal messages where 14 my life was threatened, which is why I went for the PPO."

**FACTS- I did NOT demand that she stop declawing. I tried to educate her about the facts about declawing. All the emails are in the PPO.**

Debbie Culbertson- "Since Lorie started posting on City the Kitty -- she has 250,000 followers and she is doing -- was doing seven to eight posts or more a day talking about how we are torturing and mutilating kittens."

**FACTS- I NEVER posted seven to eight posts a day. All the posts are still up. Between Nov 22-Dec 2 when I received the PPO, I posted a total of 11 posts on City the Kitty's main page with 260,000 followers , 12 posts (11 were the same posts and one was a new one) on City the Kitty's Advocate page with 3900 followers, and 7 posts on City the Kitty's instagram page with 102,000 followers. The posts are attached in screenshots. They ALL were respectful and educational posts and most I asked for people to be respectful and take the high road.**

CULBERTSON- "we have posts where she has specifically asked for people from the Newaygo area --

**FACT--The ONE time I asked a woman if she would help us in a comment on one of my facebook posts and it was to see if she would help educate the people of Newaygo about declawing and raise awareness about this inhumane procedure so that they didn't want to have it done to their kitties. I also wanted to find people in the area who would reach out to legislators and ask them if they would introduce an anti-declawing bill.**

Mr THOMAS- But the point is, we care less about what the lady's position is relative to declawing. All we know is that there's a market for like 600 cats a year to -- that we could dispose of. She takes them only from the animal shelters. The option is death for these cats. We don't see much difference between declawing and neutering them. It's okay, apparently -- and it's all done at the same time. So, it's okay for this lady to kill the cats, and it's okay, apparently, to take their guts out but it's not okay to properly and humanely take these claws off so they could be adopted, would have a home."

**FACTS- It's NOT ok for me (this lady) to kill the cats. I believe that you can get a cat into a home without doing this inhumane and harmful procedure to the cat just like almost every shelter and rescue in America does. 99.9% of shelters and rescues in America are against declawing and help educate the public about it. They put cats in homes WITH their paws healthy and intact.. Many of them even can clear the shelters of cats even if they have a no-declaw clause in their adoption contracts.**

**Spay and neutering are not the same as amputating 10 toe bones on a cat and making them walk on those amputations for the rest of their lives. Cats need intact and healthy paws with claws for so many aspects of their health and well being. Spaying and eutering also have some health benefits and help with the over population issues.<sup>2</sup>**

MCCLLOUD- No, she's welcome to her -- everybody has a right to their own thoughts. I don't have any problem with that. She can post -- if she posts on her site Lake Haven is declawing cats and we think it's terrible, every day, I don't care. There's nothing wrong with that. But when she incites people to put messages on my Facebook that they're going to come and get me, taking me to my basement and cut my hands and feet off that's wrong.

Q Is that the statement in some of this stuff we have here? 17

A Yes, I've got -- it's in my folders, yes. They're going to -- they're going to rip my nails out and they're going to cut my head off and they're going to do all kinds of things to me."

**FACTS- I was posting respectful and educational posts and never asked or tried to incite people to go and get her or attack her. In fact, on most of the posts that I did, I asked people to be respectful and just educate her and the public.**