



Declaw

Should I Declaw My

Do all cats need to be declawed?

Definitely not! The surgical procedure is done as an *elective* surgery to minimize the destructive clawing that many cats do. If your cat is not scratching you or your valued furniture, then you may not need to declaw him. If, on the other hand, you are having problems with destructive activity, then the declaw procedure is one option you may want to consider. Young and old cats are candidates for declawing.

Will it help to trim my cat's nails on a regular basis?

Yes it will! If you have a cooperative cat his nails can easily be trimmed. Ask one of our veterinarians or nurses to show you how. Trimming your cat's nails will not stop him from scratching, but it may diminish the damage done by the claws.



Start trimming your kitten's nails early. If you get your cat used to having his nails clipped on a regular basis, the whole process will only take you a minute or two, once or twice a month.

How early can my kitten be declawed?

Often, we will combine the declaw procedure with your kitten's spay or neuter at 6 months of age. However, if needed, we can declaw sooner to help cease destructive behavior. As long as your kitten is vaccinated, we can declaw them as early as 12 weeks of age.

Is a Declaw surgery painful?



As with any surgery, our veterinarians keep pain to a minimum. Our doctors are all members of the International Academy of Veterinary Pain Management. All cats that are surgically declawed not only receive injectable and oral pain management during & following the surgery, but they also receive nerve blocks to their feet, so the first 48 hours are extremely comfortable and pain free for your cat.

What special precautions do I need to take when my cat/kitten comes home following surgery?

You will want to keep your cat as quiet as possible for 7-10 days following surgery. The body needs time for the healing process to be complete. You should not allow your cat to jump onto or off of furniture and her general activity should be limited. Because of the nature of the surgery you will need to replace the litter in the cat box with **Yesterday's News** cat litter (available here at our clinic) for 2 weeks. This will help keep the paws from becoming infected by the smaller particles found in normal cat litter. Check the feet daily for any signs of infection, swelling, discharge, etc. If you see any of these symptoms, contact our hospital.

Do you ever declaw the back feet?

No. Should your cat get outside and become involved in a fight, the back claws are all they have to protect themselves. They need their back claws to climb trees and for traction when running, or even when walking across linoleum or wood floors inside.