

DECLAWING

SURGERY: Your cat will be undergoing surgery to remove its claws and the bone from which the claw grows. An incision is made at the first joint of the toe to remove the bone and nail. Occasionally sutures are required to close the incisions or an external tissue glue will be used. If sutures are used, most cats will normally lick the sutures out within two weeks. If the sutures remain after a month, please bring your cat in for an appointment.

POST SURGERY: For the first week after surgery, we recommend using a type of litter made from newspaper (e.g. Yesterdays News) to avoid infection from litter dust. Let us know if your cat will not use the new type of litter. Some limping can be expected for the first few days, which is why we use injectable pain medicine for 2 days after the surgery. If you notice swollen paws, discharge from the toes, or limping for longer than a week, he/she should be rechecked. Oral pain medication may be given to cats even after they go home (please let us know if you want pain medication prescribed for use at home).

Since we have taken away some of your cat's normal defenses, we recommend that declawed cats not be let outside.

Not all cats need to be declawed. We prefer to only declaw cats which have shown destructive tendencies and have not responded to training. If you have any questions regarding alternatives to declawing, please feel free to ask, we will be happy to assist you.

