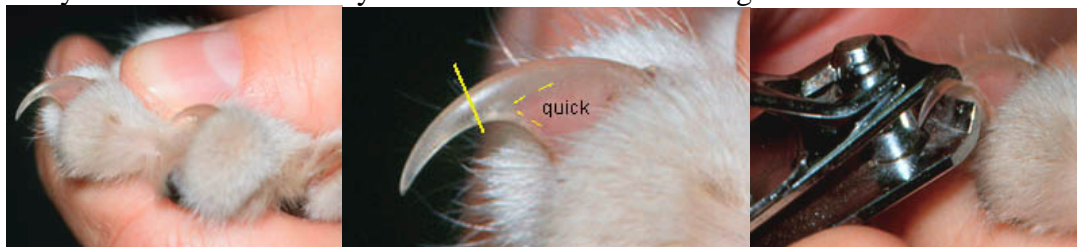


Declawing Alternatives

Nail Trimming- Trimming your cat's nails regularly will help remove the sheath and control the amount of damage he or she may cause from scratching the furniture. Start as early as possible to get your cat used to having their feet handled and nails clipped while they are young. With an older cat, it may help to begin by handling his/her feet first. Then introduce the clipping procedure by approaching your cat while he/she is relaxed (or even napping) and clip only one nail each time. Praise your cat while you clip each nail, and reward with a treat afterwards. If you are in doubt about what a proper nail length looks like, ask us and we can show you.

How to trim:

The only equipment necessary is a good pair of human nail clippers. Before cutting, look for the pink line or "quick" that runs down the center of each nail. You should clip about 1/8 inch in front of the quick. Clip the nail swiftly and be extremely careful not to cut into the quick. If this happens, you can stop any bleeding with flour, corn starch, or baby powder. If you trim a small amount of nail every couple of weeks, the quick will recede and your cat's nails will stay shorter and cause less damage.



Introduce a Scratching Post- Buy or make a scratching post that's tall enough for your cat to stretch completely while scratching, and stable enough so it won't wobble when being used. Cover the post with a heavy, rough material like sisal rope or low pile carpet. Make the post a fun place to be by placing toys on or around it. Rubbing the post with catnip will also encourage scratching. If you are trying to discourage your cat from scratching a particular piece of furniture, try placing the post in front of it, gradually moving the post aside as your cat begins to use it regularly.

Training with a scratching post:

Encouraging your cat to claw on their scratching post can also be a very effective solution. If you find your cat scratching an unwanted area, bring him/her to their scratching post instead. Each time you do this, praise your cat by petting or giving treats. Spending time with your cat while he/she is on or near the post will encourage positive scratching behavior as well.

Soft Paws- Soft Paws are a great alternative to surgery or nail trimming if you just don't have the time to train. These tiny vinyl caps are easily glued in place over your cat's nails. With applications that only need to be re-glued as they wear off (usually about once a month or longer), soft paws can end up being your cat's best friend. We can even put them on for you if needed.