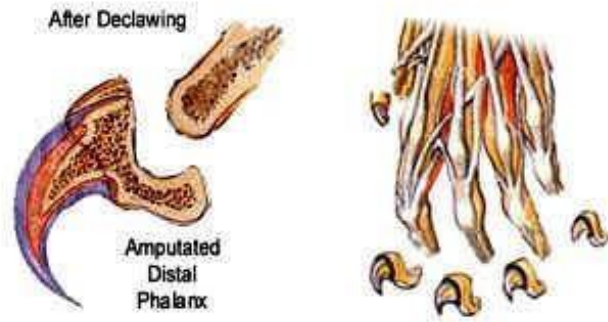
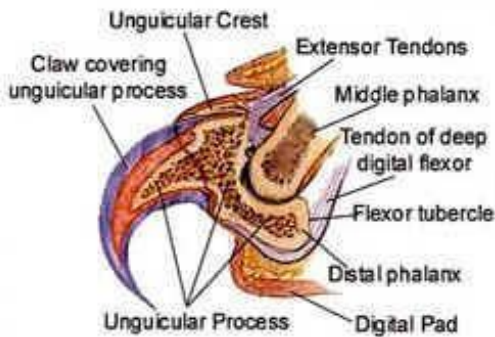


THE HARD FACTS ABOUT DECLAWING

What is Declawing?

Isn't declawing just removing the cat's nail?

No. Declawing is a major surgery that involves removing essentially the last part of the cat's digit. You are not just removing the nail. It's classified as an orthopedic surgery because part of the cat's bone is removed from its body! Ouch!! Declawing is illegal in many countries because it is considered to be an inhumane practice.



Visual depiction of the bone removed in declawing

Burlington Humane Society's Stance on Declawing

Burlington Humane does not condone declawing a cat, unless in dire situations of extreme aggression. Cats naturally scratch when they are marking and when they are happy. We do not believe that pet owners should ever mutilate an animal to better suit a person's lifestyle, or to save their furniture. Perhaps choosing a different species as your companion should be strongly considered.

Complications to your Cat's Health due to Declawing

There are also many complications that can occur to your beloved during surgery and following



the operation such as:

- Risk of haemorrhage during surgery
- Complications from anaesthesia
- Laceration of paw pads
- Reluctance to bear weight on affected limbs

Picture of a cat post-surgery after a declaw

- Infection
- Transient motor paralysis
- Radial nerve damage
- Tissue necrosis
- May cause arthritis, gangrene, lameness, and abscess
- Claw regrowth
- Chronic draining tracts
- Self-mutilation
- Palmigrade stance (walking on wrists)

- Chronic pain syndrome
- Aggression
- Flexor tendon contracture
- Cystitis (bladder infection associated with stress)



Picture of a cat's paws after a declaw

The Statistics

- 18% of declawed cats show increased biting
- 17% of declawed cats suffer wounds re-opening
- 11% of declawed cats suffer from lameness
- 10% of declawed cats see nail growth
- Declawed cats are 2 times more likely to develop litter box issues
- 30% of declawed cats experience painful bone infections
- 33% of declawed cats suffer at least one behavioural problem following declaw surgery
- 80% of declawed cats experienced at least 1 medical complication following declaw surgery

Places Where Declawing is Illegal

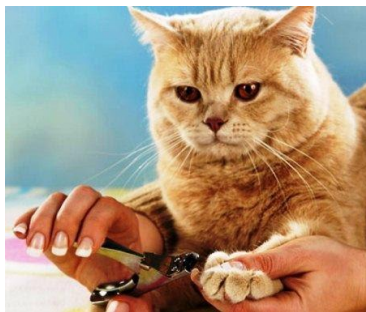
The following is a list of countries in which declawing cats is either *illegal* or *considered extremely inhumane* and only performed under extreme circumstances:

British Columbia	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia	Nfld & Labrador
PEI	Alberta	Manitoba	Denver
New York State	New Jersey	California	England
Scotland	Spain	Wales	Italy
Sweden	Norway	Switzerland	Malta
Ireland	Northern Ireland	Israel	Belgium
Denmark	Finland	Slovenia	France
Germany	Australia	New Zealand	Brazil
Austria	Serbia	Montenegro	Macedonia
Slovenia	Bosnia	Netherlands	Portugal

Alternatives to Declawing

(Information from <http://www.declawing.com>)

There are many solutions to problem cat scratching that do not involve declawing. Since declawing involves ten separate amputations of the distal phalanx, which is comparable to amputating the last joint of a human finger, alternatives to this drastic and painful procedure should be explored.



1. Clip their Nails

Here is a step-by-step guide on how to trim them yourself at home:

1. Sit calmly with the cat on your lap. Pet the cat for a few minutes to make sure both

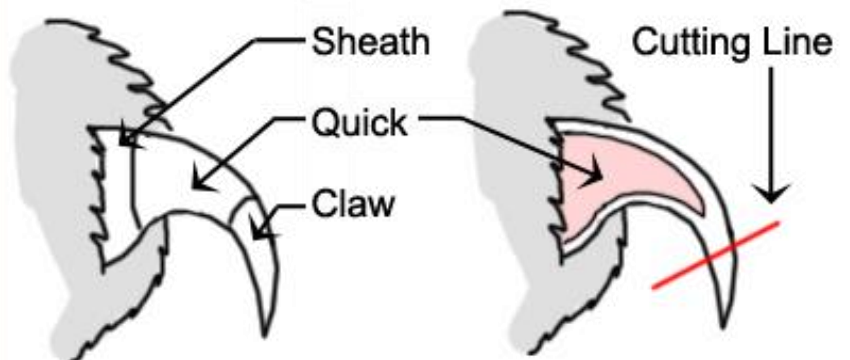


you and the cat are relaxed.

2. Pick up the first paw and use your forearm to help hold the cat snugly.
3. Use your thumb to gently pull back the fur applying slight pressure to the base of the nail to extend it.
4. Clip the nail where it begins to hook around avoiding the quick (the pink vein in the nail).
5. If the cat is squirmy just do what you can and take a break.

Cat nail clippers

6. Do not let the cat run away.
7. Stop clipping the nails and stroke the cat to calm it before letting it go.
8. Go slowly and be consistent. If you can only get a few nails done at one time just try again the next day. Don't worry if you need a few tries to get it right. Nail clipping takes a bit of practice!
9. If you clip the quick by accident you can apply a blood stopper purchased from a pet store or apply flour or cornstarch and apply pressure until the bleeding subsides.





2. Cat Scratching Posts

Cats will always scratch, it is in their nature. The key is to provide your cat with a post that he/she prefers over your furniture.

So what makes a good scratching post?

1. **Height.** The post needs to be tall enough for your cat to stretch and extend in order to get a full and satisfying scratch. The picture to the right shows a good example of a cat getting a "full and satisfying" stretch.
2. **Stability.** The post must be stable. If it wobbles, your cat won't like it, and if it topples over your cat won't want to get near it again. Watch a cat scratch -- they hunker down and scratch and pull with such vigor that they need a stable surface to suit their scratching needs.
3. **Material.** The best material for cat scratching posts is sisal fabric. Not sisal rope, but sisal fabric. This woven material provides great texture for shredding -- which cats love to do when scratching, and it feels good on their paws. When a cat scratches the sisal material, he can drag his claws down this satisfying material over and over in a continuous motion. In contrast, sisal rope creates an interrupted scratch -- scratch, bump, scratch, bump, scratch, bump. Not very satisfying.

Location, location, location.

So you find the right scratching post for your cat. Now one of the keys to getting him to use it is to place it in a prominent area of your, and his, living space. Why? Because one of the reasons cats scratch is to mark their territory, so the post has to be in the places your cat likes to be.

3. Double-Sided Tape

Double-sided tape, such as "[Paws Off!](#)" is sticky on both sides. Simply apply it to the objects you would prefer your cat not scratch on, and his natural aversion to stickiness will put an end to the offending behavior. The tape works as an aversion tool, but you still need to provide a place for kitty to scratch -- such as a scratching post.

Also, there is a product (cat scratching guard tape) that is a furniture protector that operates in a similar manner but is not sticky on both sides. It can be found via the link below, on Amazon.

https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B07JY7SHTS?ref=ppx_pop_mob_ap_share

4. Soft Paws Nail Caps for Cats

Developed by a veterinarian, Soft Paws are nail caps that look like a cat's nail, but are hollow inside. The nail caps easily fit over the cat's nail and are secured with a safe, non-toxic adhesive. Soft Paws effectively blunt the claws so that when a cat scratches, no damage occurs. The nail caps stay on for about four to six weeks and fall off with the natural growth of the cat's nails. They are generally very well tolerated by most cats, with most cats not even noticing they are wearing them. Some cats will groom them a bit excessively at first, resulting in them coming off sooner, but any removed nail caps can be easily replaced. Soft Paws should not be used on cats that go outside, since nail caps will blunt



the claws and also impede a cat's defenses.

5. Feliway (see additional handout provided)

Feliway is a synthetic analogue of the feline facial pheromone -- sounds confusing, but it is really quite simple. Have you seen cats rubbing their cheeks on an object? What they are doing is depositing some of this facial pheromone on the object and marking it as theirs. This feline

facial pheromone can also be thought of as a feel good pheromone. Meaning cats sense this



pheromone and it has a calming effect.

Cats are territorial by nature, and like to delineate their territorial boundaries. Scratching is one of the ways cats mark their territory. Not only does scratching provide a visual marking of the territory (the shredded material) but also, cats have scent glands on the bottom of their paw pads which deposit a scent discernible only by other cats.

Spraying Feliway on objects you do not want your cat to scratch effectively deposits this feel good pheromone so your cat doesn't feel the need to scratch the object.

You will still need to provide a scratching post so there is a place for your cat to scratch.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRUTH IN DECLAWING CATS! FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT "THE PAW PROJECT" AT pawproject.org

YOUR CAT THANKS YOU!