

# Declawing

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Declawing (also known as onychectomy) is the amputation of the last bone of each toe.

Declawing can cause nerve damage, phantom pain, pain from bone fragments left behind, arthritis, and pain - related behavior issues.

Post Surgery :

- Please refrain from using normal cat litter, instead use a paper pellet litter or shredded paper. This reduces the opportunity for infection to occur.
- Bandages will be placed on each paw, and should remain on for three days. If the bandages get wet, remove them immediately. If your cat gets the bandages on before the three days are up, do not re- bandage. Monitor surgical sites on each toe, watch for excessive swelling, limping, or oozing of blood or pus. Please call us if any of these symptoms occur post surgery.
- Excessive licking of the incision causes irritation, swelling and can lead to infection. An e-collar may be used to keep your cat from licking at the surgical site.
- Use all pain medication as prescribed.
- Keep paws dry for 10 days.

This procedure is highly regarded as painful and can lead to life long effects, if you are looking for an alternative to declawing - consider working with your cat at home for nail trimming. Nail caps are an excellent alternative, these can also prevent your cat from causing damage to any furniture if scratching is an issue.