

Cat Declawing

Why it's a **BAD** idea for your cat!

Scratching is a natural behavior for cats. This removes the dead husks from their claws, marks territory, both visually and with scent glands in their paws, and stretches their muscles. Unfortunately, what is natural behavior for a cat often is considered misbehavior by a cat's human guardian, especially when furniture or other household objects are damaged in the process.

5 REASONS TO NOT DECLAW YOUR CAT:

- **Declawing involves amputating the entire last part of the 10 front toes.** A comparison in humans would be cutting off a person's finger at the last joint.
- **General anesthesia is used for this surgery, which always has a certain degree of risk** associated with it.
- **Declawing, whether performed using a scalpel or laser, provides no medical benefits to cats and is a painful procedure.**
- **Nerves, tendons and muscles are severed along with the joints, making recovery from declawing painful and lengthy.**
- **Declawing robs a cat of an integral means of balance, movement, and defense.**

5 ALTERNATIVES TO DECLAWING:

- **Scratching posts offer an alternative to scratching on furniture.** Cats can be trained to use these fairly easily, especially if sprayed with attractive scents, like catnip.
- **Discourage your cat from clawing furniture by using an aversive scent or spray on furniture** which cats generally do not like, such as citrus.
- **Keep your cat's nails trimmed.** If the claws are clipped as needed, cats will have less desire to remove the husks of dead claws through scratching.
- **Nail caps are available commercially to cover the claws.** A non-toxic adhesive is used to attach a plastic cap over each claw.
- **Cats should be treated with respect.** Declawing is banned in many other countries because it is considered cruel.

*Speak with your veterinarian about alternatives to cat declawing.
Remember: Your cat depends upon you for protection.*

