Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic
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FELINE DECLAW INFORMATION

What does declawing mean?

Declawing, or oncyhectomy, is the removal of the last bone on each toe from which the nail grows. It is a common procedure in cats. Most people will only do the front feet but declawing all 4 feet is also an option.

When and why should I declaw my cat?

Having your cat declawed is a personal decision. Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic recommends performing the declaw procedure at the time of spaying or neutering (at 6 months of age), although it can be done at any age. We would like to see all cats for spaying / neutering ***and*** declaw be at least 4 pounds in weight or 4 months old. A declaw by itself can be done at any age. Animals over 1 year of age tend to have longer recovery times and increased risk of complications.

What are alternatives to declawing?

- Training
- Provide scratching posts and make furniture unattractive to cat
- Nail trimming
- Soft Paws
- **For additional information please see our recommended links:**

Feline Scratching and Declawing ***Declawing and Its Alternatives***

What are the possible complications of declawing?

Possible complications include bleeding, swelling of the feet or legs, infection, transient lameness or nerve damage, and adverse reaction to anesthesia.

How does we manage pain for declaws?

A pre-anesthetic injection is given to help the patient relax. Once the patient is anesthetized at a surgical plane of anesthesia, no pain is felt. The use of the Laser also minimizes pain (se below). Most cats are discharged with some form of pain control - usually an oral medication. A long acting injectable medication may have also been given.

How does we perform declawing?

We only use the AccuVet LASER for all declaws.

Why laser surgery?

Less Pain. The laser seals nerve endings as it "cuts." As a result, your pet will experience less pain and be more comfortable post operatively.

Less Bleeding. The Laser seals small blood vessels during surgery. This speeds many procedures, reducing the time your pet needs to be under anesthesia, which further reduces possible complications.

Less Swelling. Laser energy does not crush, tear or bruise tissue because the only thing that touches your pet is an invisible beam of light.

What does this mean for my pet?

Reduced risk of infection. As the laser removes diseased tissue, it seals the skin and reduces the amount of bacteria present.

Precision. The laser can remove unhealthy tissue while minimizing adverse effects to healthy surrounding tissue.

Quick return to normal activities. Healing is rapid and there is less post-operative discomfort and a better course of healing.

You have the option of having your pet microchipped while under anesthesia. Cedar Way Veterinary Clinic uses the Home Again Microchip System, a standard, reliable microchip that can be detected and identified by most common microchip scanners. This can greatly increase your chances of pet recovery if ever lost or stolen. ***Don't let your pet leave home without it.***

Picking Up Your Pet From Surgery

When you arrive to pick up your cat, we will discuss written discharge instructions that will explain aftercare and making a recheck appointment if needed. Yesterday's News kitty litter will also be dispensed. This litter will minimize any problems related to the litter and is easier and more accepting than shredded newspaper. Any written discharge instructions will be discussed with you. Any medications will be listed on the sheet, and will be dispensed at this time.