



DECLAWING A CAT

THE UNFORTUNATE REALITY

We strongly encourage you to review this crucial information about the unfortunate reality of cat declawing. Many people are often unaware of what this procedure involves and the lasting physical and psychological harm that cats experience as a result of being declawed.

IN ADDITION TO BEING ILLEGAL IN MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON, DC, AND SEVERAL OTHER STATES, AS WELL AS IN AT LEAST TEN MAJOR US CITIES, DECLAWING A CAT IS A CRUEL AND UNNECESSARY PROCEDURE THAT MANY PEOPLE MAY NOT FULLY COMPREHEND.

At A Home of Their Own Animal Rescue, we are committed to providing additional education and support to our applicants and adopters. The declawing of cats is a practice that pet owners frequently misunderstand. Our Cat Adoption Team has conducted research and compiled this information to help educate the community on this important topic whenever we can.



According to Cats International, the term "declawing" leads many to believe that only the claws are taken away; however, a more accurate description would be amputation or mutilation.

Declawing perfectly aligns with the dictionary's definition of mutilation. Terms like deform, disfigure, disjoint, and dismember all pertain to this surgical procedure. Regardless of whether it is performed using a scalpel, guillotine, or laser, the outcome remains unchanged and all lead to severe pain. This excerpt highlights the harsh truth about declawing a cat.

The sensory and motor nerves in a cat's paw are severed, damaged, or destroyed during the declawing process. The recovery from such surgery is slow and often painful. The discomfort caused by declawing is long-lasting, and typical cat behaviors are permanently altered. This procedure prevents our cats from engaging in pain-free activities like walking, running, jumping, climbing, and stretching. Ultimately, this debilitating surgery robs cats of a lively, energetic life filled with normal feline behaviors.

Just a few major reasons **YOU SHOULD NOT DECLAW A 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.**
- **Nerves, tendons and muscles are severed along with joints making not only recovery a painful and lengthy experience for cats, the long term damage can be immeasurable.**
- **Declawing robs a cat of an integral means of balance, movement and defense.**

ALTERNATIVES TO DECLAWING

So what are the alternatives to this horrible act of mutilation? There are four options to choose from, which are known to be successful



Soft Paws provide a fantastic alternative to declawing. They are simple to apply at home, and both cats and their owners appreciate them. These vinyl nail caps are entirely safe and humane, suitable for cats of all ages. Soft Paws fit over your cat's existing nails and resemble a cat's nail, but are hollow. They are easy to put on, and cats adapt to them remarkably well.

[Soft Paws](#)

Have you ever noticed cats rubbing their cheeks against various objects? This behavior is rooted in their territorial instincts, as they feel the need to mark their space. When cats rub their faces on things, they are essentially claiming their territory. Scratching serves a similar purpose; it not only creates a visible mark through the shredded material but also releases scent from the glands located on the pads of their paws. This scent is recognizable only by other cats and acts like their "feel good" pheromone. Feliway is a synthetic replica of your cat's facial pheromone. By spraying Feliway on items you wish to protect from scratching, you can effectively impart this comforting pheromone, reducing your cat's urge to scratch those objects.

[Feliway](#)

Double-Sided Tape – Available in various types, this tape is sticky on both sides. Simply apply it to the surfaces you wish to shield from your cat's claws, as their innate aversion to stickiness will discourage them from scratching. While this tape can be an effective deterrent, it's also essential to provide your feline friend with a suitable scratching alternative, such as a scratching post.

[Best Cat Sticky Tapes of 2024](#)

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.

- 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 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.
- 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.