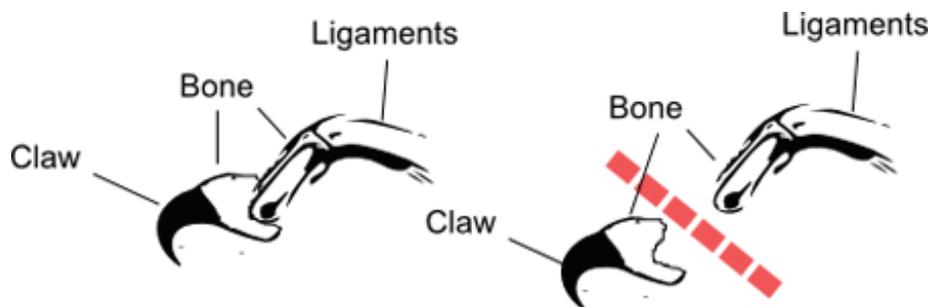


Declawing

The San Diego Humane Society does not condone declawing. We consider declawing to be an inhumane and, in most situations, unnecessary, procedure. If you have exhausted all other alternatives, and you feel that you must either declaw or give up your cat, we would rather see your cat stay in the home and remain your lifelong companion. If you do decide to declaw, we suggest you have the surgery done before the age of one and/or at the same time that she is spayed (or neutered if your cat is a male) or under anesthesia for another surgery; that you only declaw the front paws; and you always keep your cat indoors wearing a collar with an up-to-date I.D. tag.

WHAT IS DECLAWING?

Declawing is a medical procedure to amputate each toe at the first joint (3rd phalanx bone). The medical term for declawing is Onychectomy.



PHYSICAL COMPLICATIONS

- There is the possibility of an adverse reaction to general anesthesia.
- Your cat may experience a reaction ranging from mild discomfort to extreme pain.
- If the entire nail bed was not removed completely, the claws can grow back; Re-growth of a nail due to improper removal of the bone at the time of surgery is called a sequestrum. If a nail grows back, you must take your cat to your veterinarian.
- Chronic back and joint pain may occur as shoulder and leg muscles weaken.

Declawing



BEHAVIORAL COMPLICATIONS

- Cats can feel pain just like any other animal.
- The first time she tries to walk, run, jump, stretch, use the litter box and/or scratch, it may hurt; she may not want to walk because of the pain.
- She may stop playing, jumping and interacting with you because simply walking is too painful. Some cats get over it quickly; others may not be interactive for a long time.
- Frequently cats become distrustful of his/her owner and/or veterinarian. “With rare exception, the declawed cat is the most difficult to examine and treat,” states Paul Rowen, D.V.M.
- A declawed cat is more likely to bite if she feels threatened by another animal, a child or even her surroundings.
- They may be more likely to hide and become less social and active with you or other animals.