

Why You Shouldn't Declaw a Cat (And What to Do Instead)

1 - EVERY SURGERY CARRIES A RISK:

When the kitty is under surgery, they're put under anesthesia. Anesthesia should only be used when it's necessary for the cat's health.

2 - THE KITTY IS IN PAIN, OFTEN FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIFE:

The surgery includes claw amputation and the amputation of the toe bones - equivalent to removing your nails and fingers from the first knuckle. It is a painful procedure with many potential negative effects, such as: paw pain, tissue death, nerve damage, bone spurs, infection, lameness, back pain and arthritis. Cats are great at hiding their pain, so your cat could be in pain without you even knowing.

3 - BEHAVIORAL ISSUES:

Cat owners remove feline's claws to avoid one form of negative behavior – scratching. But this often brings even more unexpected negative behaviors. A declawed feline might: bite, get aggressive, stop using the litter box, or be afraid of their own shadow.

4 - THEY AVOID USING THEIR LITTERBOX:

When a declawed kitty tries to bury their waste, the litter hurts their paws. They associate the litter box with pain so they find alternative places to do their business.

5 - THEY HAVE TO RELEARN HOW TO WALK:

Cats rely on their toes. When the claws and the bone are removed, it impairs their balance so they have a hard time keeping their balance.

6 - IT CAUSES STRESS:

Clawing is a natural and intuitive cat's behavior. When the cat is unable to scratch, they become stressed and anxious.

7 - IT AFFECTS THEIR ABILITY TO STRETCH:

I'm sure you often saw your cat sticking their claws into something and stretching as much as they can. This helps them increase blood flow and activates their muscles, which removes toxin from their body. Without their claws, they are not able to stretch as effectively, and their body doesn't get a full benefit of a good stretch.

WHAT TO DO INSTEAD:

Use different types of scratching posts until you find the one your cat approves.

Trim their nails.

Put Soft Paws nail caps on the cat's claws if they allow you.

Feliway spray might help if scratching is stress related.

When you see your cat scratching the object they shouldn't, move them to their scratching post.

When you see your cat using the scratching post, reward them with a treat and praise them.

Place a tarp or double-sided sticky tape to the object they're scratching. Your cat won't like the feeling and will avoid scratching that area again.

