

At Home Declaw Care Instructions

Onychectomy (de-clawing) is the surgical removal of the claw by amputation of the end of each digit. Once the toe has been amputated, the skin is closed with surgical adhesive and bandages are applied for the first 24 hours. When done effectively, onychectomy will eliminate the ability of the cat to produce claws on the front paws. Without his/her claws they will be less capable/unable to cause damage to the household or physical harm to humans or other cats. However, without his/her claws, their ability to climb and defend themselves will also be significantly reduced.

HOME CARE AFTER SURGERY:

1. Diet: Feed as usual. It is not uncommon for patients to not eat for 24-48 hours after surgery. If the appetite does not return within 48 hours, please contact us.

2. Activity: You should try to limit activity for 7-14 days once home. It is not recommended for cats that are de-clawed to be allowed unsupervised outside activity.

3. Litter: You should use a paper litter substitute for the first 5-7 days. Shredded newspaper, paper towels, or non-clay commercial litters (Yesterday's News) can be used safely and effectively.

NOTIFY THE DOCTOR IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCUR:

- * They do not show significant improvement or tenderness after 2-4 weeks at home
- * Vomiting or unwillingness to eat
- * Depression or signs of being lethargic
- * Significant discharge or swelling of any of the toes is observed