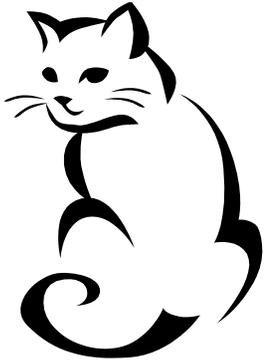


PAWS COME WITH CLAWS

THAT'S ONE OF NATURES LAWS



So, if you love your cat:

DON'T DECLAW!!

Many cat owners, who genuinely love their pets, have no idea what de-clawing means to their animals. De-clawing means for more than leaving your pet defenseless against an attack outdoors. It means:

- The severing of ligaments and tendons which is very painful.
- Creating of an imbalance that can lead to injury.
- A change in personality and temperament.
- A cat that may bite or growl.

It means you, as a cat owner, have renounced the responsibility you assumed when you fell in love with that kitten or cat.

How important are a cat's claws?

Dr. Louis J. Camuti, a practicing veterinarian for 58 years, puts it this way: "I wouldn't de-claw a cat if you paid me \$1,000 per nail!"

Have you often been amazed by a cat's remarkable grace and agility and its faultless sense of balance? To a great extent, this is due to its ingeniously designed retractable claws that allow it to establish footing for walking, running, springing, climbing or stretching.

What happens to a cat when it is declawed?

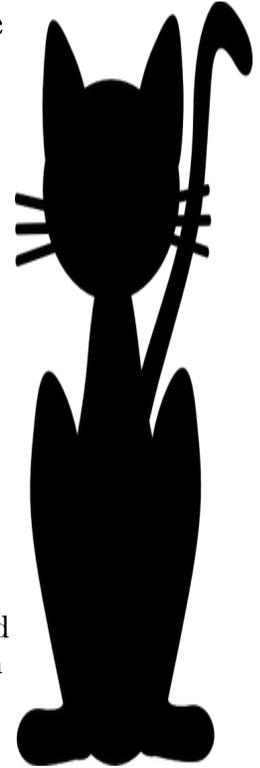
The first thing that happens is it awakens from anesthesia with its fee throbbing under the bandages. Next it experiences severe pain and then it finds it has trouble walking.

The physical effect of de-clawing is a gradual weakening of the muscles of the legs, shoulders and back. The cat's balance becomes impaired. Emotionally, cats feel defenseless and thus live in a constant state of stress, making them more prone to disease. Despite its grace, a cat is not sure-footed. Without the lightning-quick ability to grasp with its claws, it can easily be injured in a fall.

Deprived of its claws a cat may turn to its only other form of defense- their teeth. It is fairly common for a de-clawed cat to become a biter. They do this out of fear and frustration.

Why do people make their animals suffer from the pain and emotional disorientation of de-clawing?

"To protect the furniture," is the most common reason. "To keep my cat from scratching us when we try to play with him," is another. Scratching is a normal characteristic of a healthy cat. It exercises that cat's foot muscles and removes dead tissue from their nails. It also has a soothing, comforting effect that helps create a tranquil disposition.



WHAT CAN YOU AS A PET OWNER DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FURNITURE WITHOUT HARMING YOUR CAT?

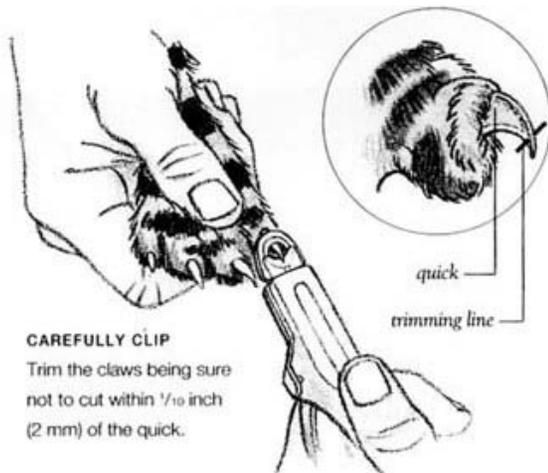
Give your cat a manicure!

It is best to start when your cat is a kitten. Take your pet to a professional groomer or you can do it yourself. Use a pair of clippers made especially for cats and follow these three steps:



EXTEND CLAWS

Firmly but gently place the cat in your lap, and then press down on the pad to extend the claw.



CAREFULLY CLIP

Trim the claws being sure not to cut within $\frac{1}{10}$ inch (2 mm) of the quick.

Provide Your Cat With

His Own Furniture

Your cat should be fluffy- the scratching post should be rough and coarse. You should buy a sisal (a harsh, scratchy hemp product) scratching post or make your own. Just nail a piece of 2 x 4 board to a thick square base and cover both pieces with a carpet remnant (a tightly woven pile is best). You can even use a tree branch or a board angled against a wall secured so it won't fall over.

Train Your Cat

When your kitten starts to scratch furniture gently pull it off and place its front paws the scratching post. Keep the post in an easily accessible place so the cat becomes accustomed to using it. If an older cat persists in scratching the furniture give it a squirt of lukewarm water from a spray bottle. Spray it any place except in the face. At the same time, say a sharp "NO." Then take it back to the scratching post.

To keep your cat off of your furniture you can try this tip. Shake a small amount of pleasantly scented bath oil on a piece of cotton. Attach the cotton to the part of the furniture that the cat scratches. It should repel the cat as long as the aroma remains.

Your cat gives you love and loyalty. It is the most it can give. You owe the same love and loyalty, but you owe it one thing more- to leave its paws with claws.