



Family Forever Animal Foundation

Declawing – Cruelty & Consequences

Declawing isn't like trimming fingernails; it's like trimming fingers. Declawing is actually an amputation of the nail, nail bed, and all of the bone and tissue that holds the claw in place. It is like cutting off a person's finger at the first knuckle. It's banned in over 20 countries under animal welfare legislation.

Without claws, cats are fundamentally defenseless. Claws are essential to a cat's ability to run and climb to escape danger. Should a declawed indoor cat ever escape outside, there is nothing the cat can do to protect herself. Even indoors, it may entirely change a cat's behavior, making her anxious and defensive.

Declawing can cause a number of health and behavioral complications. These include:

- Consistently urinating outside of the litter box
- Biting
- Arthritis
- Infection
- Anti-social/anxious behavior
- Chronic Pain
- Aggression towards other pets

There are many alternatives to declawing, including:

- Providing appropriate scratching locations, like scratching posts and cardboard scratchers
- Nail caps, like Soft Paws
- Double sided sticky tape (sold at pet stores) or foil over favorite scratching places
- Trimming cats claws regularly
- Using positive reinforcement (treats) to reward scratching in appropriate places

For more information on declawing, we recommend the following resources:

Declawing.com

<http://www.declawing.com/>

Humane Society

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/declawing.html>

The Paw Project:

<http://www.pawproject.org/>