



Paws come with claws!



De-clawing is literally **maiming** a cat, a mistake that can lead to physical, emotional and behavioral complications. **De-clawing** is not a trivial procedure similar to trimming fingernails. It is **Amputation!** It is an irreversible surgical procedure that involves cutting off the last joint of a cat's "toes". It is a very painful procedure with strong potential to secondary complications and painful recovery. And remember during the time of recovery the kitty still has to use these mutilated parts for everything! (Imagine having the last joint of your own fingers or toes amputated and having to constantly use the freshly amputated digits...not a pleasant idea!) Deprived of its front claws a cat becomes insecure and distressed and may drastically change their personality. De-clawing may lead to inappropriate behavior such as unwillingness to use the litter box due to pain, spraying, biting and chewing on their feet. Claws are very intricately connected to the toes with many ligaments, tendons and nerves, with the claws themselves growing directly from the bone, which all must be amputated. Thus it is not a simple single surgery but **10 separate amputations!** Research is now showing that de-clawed cats feel "phantom" pain and that the claws may actually re-grow beneath the healed skin unbeknownst to us humans. De-clawing is not a way to keep a cat from scratching the furniture, it is **Mutilation!** There are many humane ways to encourage a cat not to scratch you or your furniture. Don't make a mistake that you and your cat will regret for the rest of it's life.

Common Complications

- *Excruciating pain
- *Nerve damage
- *Hemorrhage
- *Bone chips
(prevent healing)
- *Re-Growth
(can mean a second operation and more pain and suffering)
- *Refusal to use litter box
(finds soft places for bathroom needs)
- *Biting
- *Back Pain and/or Arthritis
- *Muscle atrophy in front legs
(eventually may not be able to walk)
- *Fear



Alternatives

- *Nail Trimming
- *Training
- *Soft Paws
- *Deterrents
(noise makers, verbal no's, water bottle)
- *Multiple scratching posts
- *Slip Covers
- *Sticky Paws
- *Sofa Savers

COUNTRIES WHERE DE-CLAWING IS ILLEGAL OR CONSIDERED EXTREMELY INHUMANE:

England	France	Brazil
Ireland	Scotland	Japan
Australia	Italy	New Zealand
Germany	Switzerland	and the list goes on!

Resources

- de-clawing.com -- a directory to all the de-clawing sites on the internet.
- stopdeclaw.com -- a powerful anti-declaw site.
- declawing.com -- veterinarian Christianne Schelling describes declawing.
- declaw.com -- a list of non-declaw veterinarians.
- softpaws.com -- nail caps that limit scratching damage, ask you vet about them.
- stickypaws.com -- humane and effective furniture protection.
- Sofa Savers -- 1-972-790-6658

Courtesy of:



www.sarasavesanimals.org 871 River Road Eugene, OR 97404