

The Price of Declawing Your Cat

Considering whether to declaw your cat or not? The procedure has been banned in numerous countries, U.S. cities, U.S. states, and certain Vet Hospitals – it is considered an inhumane & unnecessary procedure. Most people decide to have their cats declawed as a matter of convenience to protect their furniture from cat scratching or to guard against injury to themselves and family members.

Most people, however, don't realize the pain that the surgery can cause.

- Declawing amputates the last bone on each digit of a cat's paws.
 - In humans, it would be equivalent to cutting off the tip of every finger at the first knuckle — very painful, indeed.
 - This surgery permanently changes the structure of a cat's foot – making walking feel like they are constantly wearing a shoe that is too small

A declaw surgery can also cause more problems than it solves.

- Physical problems:
 - Cats can become lame
 - Develop joint problems
 - Have trouble grooming themselves
- Behavior problems:
 - Litterbox aversion
 - Cats' paws can become tender from the procedure, making certain types of litter painful
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Losing their claws, loses their first line of defense – causing a cat to be in a consistent elevated state of stress
 - Biting
 - Cats extend their claws as a warning, without this option – cats are more likely to bite instead

Taking cats' claws away inhibits their ability to behave naturally – claws are used to stretch, play, mark territory, and climb. Declawing is essentially done for the convenience of humans — to the detriment of the cat. You are working against rather than with your kitty if you force him to endure needless pain and put him at risk for developing negative side-effects to the surgery.

If you're worried about your furniture being damaged, don't worry we can help with that! Check out our article – "[How to Keep My Furniture Safe.](#)"

For more information about the declaw procedures & alternatives – visit <https://pawproject.org/>
Sources: Animal Behavior College & Best Friends Animal Society