

Declaw Information

We at Catoosa Small Animal Hospital want to keep you as informed as possible about various issues we have common questions about. The following questions are frequently asked about the issue of declawing cats.

Should I declaw my cat?

Our philosophy is that declawing is a humane option in situations where your cat is destroying furniture, wall paper, etc. It is much better to declaw your cat than to put them to sleep or kick them outdoors in an unsafe environment (high traffic areas in town)! If you aren't having problems, don't do it routinely – however, it is not inhumane!

When should I declaw my cat?

The best time to declaw a cat is when they are very young – 6 weeks old or so. They do amazingly well! We can declaw at any age but the older your cat is the longer the recovery.

Can my cat be active after surgery?

After we send your cat home we recommend that you keep them confined for a couple of days. If they would jump off the couch they could get a toe bleeding – not enough to hurt the cat – but blood all over the house is a real pain!

Can I feed and water my cat after I get him home?

Absolutely! We keep cats overnight after surgery, so by the time they get home it is perfectly fine for them to eat and drink.

Do I need to change types of litter after declaw surgery?

No – we recommend that you use the same litter as always. Just be sure and change it daily to keep it clean.

Will my cat have stitches?

No – we will use surgical glue to close the incisions.

What happens when you declaw my cat?

We use general anesthetic and surgically removed the toe nails along with last little bone in their toe.

Should I declaw all 4 feet?

We rarely recommend doing all 4 feet. A cat that is declawed and gets outside can still climb a tree to get away from a mean dog, whereas doing all 4 would make it difficult for them to get away. We do declaw all 4 feet in some cases – especially when the owners are diabetic, HIV positive, or on chemotherapy for cancer and cannot afford to get any scratches from their kitty because of potential infection.

Can I get my cat spayed or neutered along with a declaw?

Absolutely! We commonly do that and it saves money over splitting the procedures up. It certainly is not “too much surgery” to do at once on your cat.

Is a declaw painful?

Post operative pain is more for a declaw than some other surgical procedures. We use several pain medications the day of surgery and usually send you home some to use over the next few days. All of this is included in the price of the procedure.

What does it cost to declaw my cat?

Front feet only	\$135
All four feet	\$190
Front w/spay	\$205
Front w/neuter	\$165
All 4 w/spay	\$260
All 4 w/neuter	\$220

Additional fees on top of the basic cost if needed

Preoperative blood work to check for potential problems before surgery - \$25 - \$35