



Save a Paw: Please Do Not Declaw!

From the PAWS *Happy, Healthy, and Safe* Education Series



Scratching Solutions

Smart and caring cat owners know that claws are very important to cats. Claws give the cat a sense of security, knowing that their defense system is intact. They also allow the cat to grasp and hold objects as well as establish footing for walking, running, springing, climbing and stretching. By regularly trimming your cat's nails and offering a suitable scratching post or platform, you are providing a natural outlet for a normal, happy and healthy behavior and you will be rewarded with a satisfied and confident companion.

About Declawing

Scientific journals refer to declawing as "elective mutilation". ***It is an amputation of the cat's toes comparable to the removal of the human finger at the first knuckle.*** It handicaps the cat physically, socially and psychologically for the rest of its life, predisposing the cat to certain temperament and behavior problems such as shyness, biting and litter box avoidance. By regularly trimming your cat's nails and offering a suitable scratching target you are providing a natural outlet for a normal, healthy behavior and you will be rewarded with a content and confident companion.

Most American vets declaw, but declawing is considered inhumane and is illegal in most other civilized countries, including Australia and most countries in Europe.

Like many other shelters and humane societies, PAWS of Hertford County has seen declawed cats surrendered to the shelter by their owners for the behavior problems mentioned above at a higher rate than non-declawed cats.

PAWS OF HERTFORD COUNTY, INC

Protecting Animals Worth Saving

PO Box 153, Murfreesboro, NC 27855

252.358.7861

pawsofhertfordcounty.com