

Carleton Veterinary Services & Lanark Veterinary Clinic

Declaw

Carleton Veterinary Service
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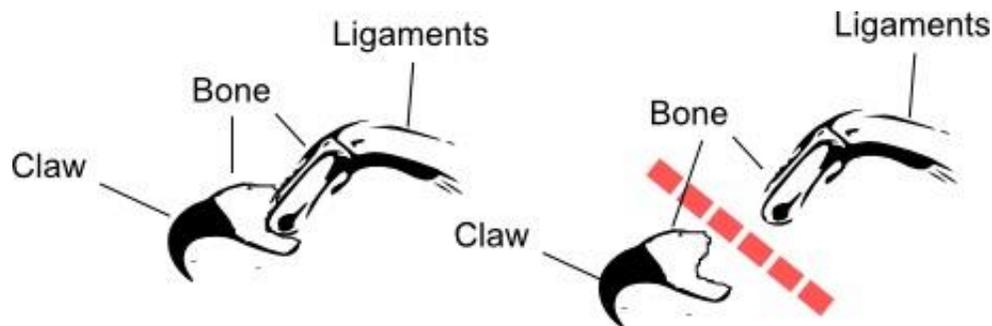
www.carletonveterinaryservices.com

Mission Statement

Where heart and medicine come together for the benefit of pets, their people and our community.

WHAT IS A DECLAW?

The feline declaw (Onychectomy) is the surgical removal of the cat's claws under general anesthetic by means of amputation. The cat's claw cannot be removed without amputation of the distal phalange (toe).



WHY IS THIS SURGERY PERFORMED?

- Aggressive cat
- Destruction of furniture

CAN THERE BE COMPLICATIONS WITH THIS SURGERY?

- The procedure is painful
- Risk of infection
- Bleeding
- Nerve damage
- Lameness

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO DECLAWING?

- Soft paws: effectively blunt the claws so that when a cat scratches, no damage occurs. The nail caps stay on for about four to six weeks and fall off with the natural growth of the cat's nails. They are generally very well tolerated by most cats
- Scratching posts

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT THE DAY OF SURGERY?

Your pet should arrive in the clinic the day of surgery between 8:00-8:30 am. Your pet should be fasted meaning no food after midnight the night before. A small amount of water is acceptable.

When you arrive at the clinic you will be asked the following questions:

- Would you like to have pre-anesthetic blood screening run on your pet?
- Are you interested in IV fluids throughout the procedure?

Note: the pre-anesthetic blood work and IV fluids have additional costs

Patients over the age of six are consider higher risk under anesthetic and will have mandatory pre-anesthetic blood screening and IV fluids.

BENEFITS OF PRE-ANESTHETIC BLOODWORK

- Detects hidden illness that may put your pet at risk during anesthesia/ surgery
- Help us to choose the anesthetic that is best for your pet
- Provides peace of mind

BENEFITS OF IV FLUIDS

- IV fluids make anesthesia safer
- Warmed fluids help to maintain body temperature as many patients suffer from hypothermia
- Helps keep blood pressure stable as many pets under anesthesia end up being slightly dehydrated with reduced blood pressure by the end of the procedure
- Reduces patient's recovery

AFTER SURGERY CARE

- The paws will be bandaged in clinic for the first 12-24 hrs to reduce possible bleeding.
- Your cat will receive an injection of metacam as well as buprenorphine for pain management as needed while in hospital.
- An E-collar must be worn for 14 days after declaw surgery.
- It is advised that your cat stays in hospital for one night following surgery. Discharge will be the following day after 10am
- A technician will go over homework rules at time of discharge
- Your cat will be discharged with oral metacam and buprenorphine for pain management
- Please keep your cat inside for 14 days after surgery. We recommend that cats who are declawed become indoor cats only. Remember declawed cats have lost their claws therefore lost the ability to properly defend themselves.
- Monitor the paws for swelling, pain, bleeding, and discharge. Please call the clinic and let us know if your cat is experiencing complications
- Signs of pain post feline declaw: hiding under furniture, reduced appetite, aggressive behaviour, reduced activity