

Dr. Jereld E. Rice

706 Depot St. Enterprise, OR 97828



### Declawing in Cats

(onychectomy)

Scratching with the front claws is normal, instinctive behavior for cats. The purpose of this activity is to remove old, worn, fragments of nails. Though scratching is normal for cats, this behavior can be destructive and costly in the home. For many cat owners, declawing is the only solution.

A declawed cat should be confined indoors, since the claws are its primary means of defense. A house cat has little need for defense and is a more suitable pet because it can no longer ruin furnishings or scratch people.

Declawing is performed under general anesthesia and consists of surgical removal of the nail bed. The feet are usually bandaged and your cat will be hospitalized overnight. After the bandages are removed, your pet will be able to walk normally, though tenderness may be evident for a few days.

#### Home Care:

1. Exercise: Restricting exercise is difficult. However, you should prevent your cat from jumping as much as possible for the first 5 days.
2. Bleeding: Occasionally a cat breaks open one of the small scabs where the nail was removed. A few drops of blood followed by rapid cessation of bleeding is normal. Call the doctor if bleeding persists.
3. Litter box: Replace normal granular clay litter with torn strips of newspaper for 5 days
4. Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

#### Notify the Doctor if Any of the Following Occur:

- Your cat's feet appear swollen or bleed frequently.
- Your pet is reluctant to walk.
- There is a change in your cat's general health or behavior.

**YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT IS** \_\_\_\_\_