



## **Post - Surgical Feline Declaw Instructions**

Please take the following steps to ensure your pet's wellbeing and to avoid unnecessary pain and complications.

Be diligent and give pain medications according to the drug label. Most commonly the medication prescribed is given under the tongue and should be given in the morning. It is important to give the medication at the same time each day to decrease post-surgical pain.

Confine your cat indoors for the first 7 days after surgery to lessen the risk of wound contamination. Optimal healing requires a clean and dry environment.

Replace normal kitty litter with shredded or compressed paper for 10 days. Most pet supply stores sell compressed paper, including recycled compressed newspaper. Clean the paper kitty litter after each use or your cat may refuse to use the litter pan. Gravel or clay kitty litter creates a high risk for infections if caught in the wound.

Avoid exercise for the first week following surgery. Take steps to prevent unnecessary jumping or running. Cats that are overly active in the first few days following surgery are far more likely to have complications including pain, infection, or bleeding.

Tenderness for more than 14 days is abnormal. Suture tract infections and less commonly, retained sutures are the most common causes of prolonged sensitivity and lameness. Otherwise, tenderness is caused from incomplete healing around the end of the toe.

Please contact us if there is prolonged tenderness. Also contact us if any abnormal swelling or discharge is noted.

If sutures were used, they will dissolve and only rarely need to be removed. When sutures are not used, special surgical glue is used to seal the wounds!