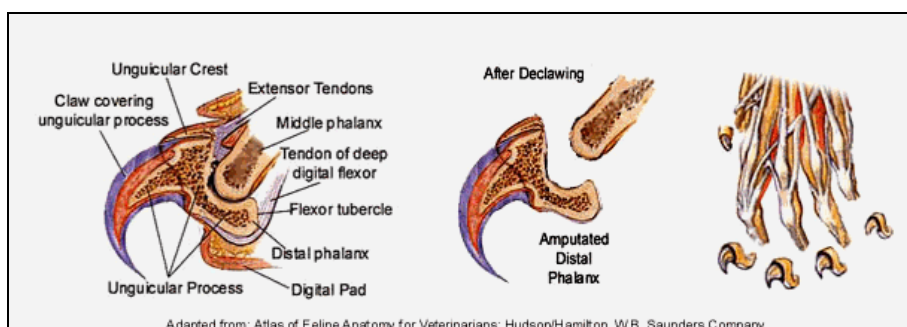


Urban Cat Relief

The Truth about Declawing



1. **"Declawing is an inhumane, unnecessary procedure that has many alternatives.** It is never in the cat's best interest. With declawing, we are interfering with a species' nature because of our own whims, misconceptions, misinformation, and sometimes, laziness." Neil Wolff, D.V.M.
2. Dr. Nicholas Dodman, author of *The Cat Who Cried for Help*, and director of the Animal Behavior Clinic at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine has the following to say about the procedure: **"Declawing fits the dictionary definition of mutilation** to a tee. Words such as deform, disfigure, disjoint and dismember all apply to this surgery in veterinary medicine. The clinical procedure serves as a model of severe pain for the testing of analgesic drugs."
3. **Declawing is actually ten individual amputations comparable to the removal of human fingertips at the first knuckle.** Sensory and motor nerves are cut, damaged, and destroyed. Recovery from the surgery is a slow and painful process. This procedure can hamper the sensations and enjoyment involved in walking, running, springing, climbing, and stretching.
4. While declawing is a popular and lucrative practice in the United States, it is not practiced in European countries. It is, in fact, **against the law, in many countries including England, Germany, and Switzerland.**
5. Cat owners who elect to have their pets declawed generally do so with the belief that they will never have to deal with fabric damage due to destructive scratching problems. However, **paw sensitivity resulting from the declaw operation may result in litterbox avoidance** and urine-soaked furnishings or carpeting.
6. Without cats #1 defense system many **declawed cats may resort to nipping or biting with very little warning.** They often use oral means to express their insecurity and this may also result in destructive chewing problems.
7. Cats, like people, react differently to **physical handicaps.** Some appear to be unaffected and others become nervous and defensive. When a dramatic **temperament or behavior change occurs**, the cat owner often decides to take the cat to a pound or shelter or have it euthanized by a veterinarian.



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