

Facts about Declawing

- Forty-two percent of all cat owners in the United States have their cats declawed.
- Declawing is now illegal in the state of New York and in many countries, is either illegal or considered extremely inhumane.
- Declawing is not a simple single surgery, but 10 separate painful amputations.
- After surgery, cats will experience pain for several days. Elevated blood pressure, increased pulse rate, fever, and limping are some signs that the cat is in pain.
- Deprived of claws, a cat may turn to its only other line of defense - their teeth.

For more information, visit our website awanj.org or call **856-424-2288**.



About AWA

Our Mission

AWA is dedicated to eliminating animal suffering and promoting the importance of the human-animal bond and improving the role of the animals in the well-being of people.

We serve our community by:

- Saving thousands of homeless and abandoned animals each year. We adopted out 2,661 animals in 2014.
- Humane Education activities for schools and youth groups, including our Summer Camp program.
- Providing low-cost spay/neuter surgery and veterinary care through our Pet Clinic and our Vets on Wheels program.

Hours of Operation

Adoption Center

Tuesday—Friday 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Wellness exams are available M-F by appt. Walk-in Vaccine Clinics are available Monday mornings, plus several Saturdays a month (check website.) Spay/neuter surgeries are M-F by appointment, which can be made online.

Declawing & Its Alternatives

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Why Cats Scratch

Why does my cat scratch?

Scratching is not a behavioral problem; it is a natural behavior for cats. It is normal for cats to scratch objects in their environment for many reasons:

- To remove the dead outer layer of their claws.
- To mark their territory by leaving both a visual mark and a scent, since they have scent glands on their paws.
- To stretch their bodies and flex their feet and claws.
- To work off energy.
- Sheer pleasure — it feels good!

Because scratching is a normal behavior, and one that cats are highly motivated to display, it is unrealistic to try to prevent them from scratching. Instead, you can provide your cat with appropriate scratching alternatives.



Alternatives

How do I keep my cat from damaging my furniture?

There are many ways to prevent a cat from damaging your furniture, but still allowing them the chance to scratch. Any of these alternatives or a combination of them, can end your furniture damage problems completely:

- *Soft Paws* - Like a woman's acrylic nail, *Soft Paws* are small acrylic nail caps that are glued onto the cat's claws. The caps are blunt, and not sharp enough to cause any damage in the home. The glue is, of course, animal safe.
- *Nail Trimming* - For some cats, simply keeping their nails short is enough to stop damage from scratching.
- *Scratching Posts* - Most cats can be easily trained to use scratching posts instead of your furniture. Many cats enjoy having several surfaces and elevations (vertical, plane and horizontal). One of the most popular surfaces is cardboard!
- *Feliway* - a "friendly pheromone" which mimics the scent of cats' facial glands. It is thought that cats will not mark with urine where they have previously marked with facial glands. Some behaviorists believe it may be useful to curb undesirable scratching.
- *Deterrents* - cover items you do not want the cat to scratch with something they will find unappealing. Some deterrents include double sided sticky tape, sandpaper, aluminum foil, etc.

Scratching Tools

How do I teach my cat to use scratching tools?

- Make sure you have a few scratching tools! You need to provide more than one scratching post. Just one will not work.
- Pick the best location for the tools.
- Place the scratching devices near any vertical object that you think the cat will scratch.
- Place one next to any vulnerable furniture item where the cat and family spend a significant amount of time.
- Place one near the cat's favorite napping place.
- Show the cat what to do! Scratch your own nails loudly on the scratching device to attract the curiosity of the cat.
- Praise him when he comes to investigate what you are doing.
- You can also rub catnip on each scratching post to increase the attraction.
- Do not grab the cat's paws and force them on the scratching device. Most cats do not like to have their paws grabbed, which can cause the cat to avoid the scratching device.

