

Brookville Road Animal Hospital

8049 Brookville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46239

phone: (317) 353-6143

Home Care Instructions

- Restrict activity for 7 days. He/she should be inside during this time, and not allowed to run or play with other pets.
- An e-collar should be worn for 7 days if he/she tries to lick at the incision or his paws. This is strongly recommended when unsupervised, as licking is very likely to occur.
- Monitor incisions for swelling and discharge. Expect the area to be slightly red and swollen red for a few days. If excessive swelling or discharge is noted, or if he/she is consistently holding up a paw for more than a few days, please come in for recheck examination.
- He/she can be offered his normal food tonight.
- **Special litter, Yesterday's News, should be used for 7 days, to minimize infection. This can be provided for you at the front desk.**
- Recheck examination is recommended in 2 weeks with your doctor.

THE PET HEALTH LIBRARY

By Wendy C. Brooks, DVM, DipABVP

Educational Director, VeterinaryPartner.com

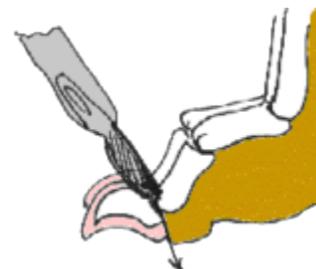
Declawing and Its Alternatives

The Disarticulation Method

This procedure is a bit more difficult to master as it involves the delicate disconnection of all the tiny ligaments holding the third bone in place. The entire third bone is removed.

What to Expect / Possible Complications

- Because the entire third bone is removed, there is a zero possibility of the claw growing back; however, the cut ligaments allow for a subtle drop in the way the foot is held. Most owners do not notice this change in posture.
- One to two nights in the hospital are required for this procedure.
- Some spotting of blood from the toes is normal during the first few days at home (beware of this with white carpeting).



- Shredded paper or pelleted recycled newspaper litter (such as Yesterday's News®) is recommended for 10 days after surgery. Conventional clay or sand litters can impact the tiny incisions and cause infections.
- Pain medication is a good idea, especially for larger or older cats. The amount of weight carried on the feet (the size of the cat) is the biggest factor in post-operative pain.

Myths and Rumors: What People Hear about Declawing

MYTH #1: *After declawing, a cat is likely to become fearful or experience behavior changes, impairing an affectionate relationship with his owner.*

Numerous scientific studies have been unable to document any behavior changes post-declaw. In fact, in one survey 70% of owners of declawed cats reported an improved relationship with their cat after the procedure.

.....
MYTH #2: *A declawed cat cannot climb trees.*

Declawed cats are not as effective at climbing trees as cats with claws but declawing does not prevent tree climbing.

.....
MYTH #3: *A declawed cat cannot catch prey.*

Declawed cats are not as effective at catching prey as cats with claws but declawing does not prevent effective hunting.

.....
MYTH #4: *A declawed cat has lost its ability to defend itself and should not be allowed outside.*

This one is true. Without claws, a cat has indeed lost an important part of his defense system. I feel strongly that declawed cats should be housed indoors only.

.....
MYTH #5: *Declawed cats are more likely to bite since they can no longer claw.*

Declawed cats do not seem to realize they have no claws. They will continue to scratch ineffectively as if they did not know the difference. Studies have shown no increased biting tendency after declawing.

.....
MYTH #6: *The post-operative period involves tremendous pain.*

The declawed cat will indeed have sore feet after surgery. The larger the cat, the more discomfort there is and reluctance to bear weight. Pain relievers are often prescribed. However, this recovery period should not last longer than a week or so. Healing should be complete by two weeks. Pain after this recovery period is not normal or expected in any way and if a declawed cat seems to be uncomfortable or lame, a recheck appointment is definitely needed.

.....
MYTH #7: *A declawed cat will not use a litter box again.*

It is important that litter not get impacted in the declaw incisions during the recovery period. Shredded paper is the usual recommendation during recovery and some cats simply will not use shredded paper. The recycled newspaper litters are an excellent alternative. The only litter problem you might expect would not accepting a new litter during the recovery period. Declawed cats do not lose their litter box instinct.

THE PET HEALTH LIBRARY

By Wendy C. Brooks, DVM, DipABVP

Educational Director, VeterinaryPartner.com

Neutering the Male Cat

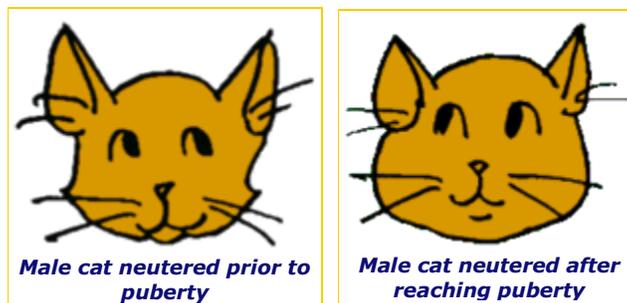
Neutering a male cat is an excellent step to help your young man grow into a loving, well adapted household citizen. The main reason to neuter a male cat is to reduce the incidence of objectionable behaviors that are normal in the feline world but unacceptable in the human world.

Roaming: More than 90% will reduce this behavior with neutering. Approximately 60% reduce this behavior right away

Fighting: More than 90% will reduce this behavior with neutering. Approximately 60% reduce this behavior right away

Urine marking: More than 90% will reduce this behavior with neutering. Approximately 80% reduce this behavior right away.

Another reason to neuter a male cat has to do with the physical appearance. Cats neutered prior to puberty (most cats are neutered at approximately age 6 months) do not develop secondary sex characteristics. These include a more muscular body, thickenings around the face called shields, and spines on the penis.



What is Done Exactly

The feline neuter is one of the simplest surgical procedures performed in all of veterinary medicine. The cat is fasted overnight so that anesthesia is given on an empty stomach. The scrotum is opened with a small incision and the testicles are brought out. The cords are either pulled free and tied to each other or a small suture is used to tie the cords and the testicle is cut free. The skin incision on the scrotum is small enough so as not to require stitches of any kind.

Early Neuter?

A common animal shelter practice has been to adopt a young kitten with the new owner paying a neuter deposit to be refunded when the kitten is neutered at the traditional age of six months. The problem has been that new owners do not return and young cats go unneutered. Early neutering allows for kittens to be neutered prior to adoption. There has been some controversy over this practice as it flies in the face of tradition but all research to date has shown no negative consequences to early neutering.

Some **myths** have been:

Early neutering is more likely to prevent objectionable behaviors than when done at a later age.

This has not borne out. Neutering at any age is associated with the same statistics as listed above.

Kittens neutered early will be stunted or small.

This is not true, though early neutered kittens will not develop the more masculine appearance described above.

Early neutered kittens will have a narrowed urethra that will predispose them to blockage with feline lower urinary tract disease.

Early neutering does not seem to be a significant factor in this syndrome.

Some clinics support early neutering but prefer that kittens weigh at least 3 lbs so that the tissues are not too difficult to manipulate.

Recovery

There is minimal recovery with this procedure. Some clinics discharge kittens the same day as surgery. There should be no bleeding or swelling. It is a good idea not to bathe the kitten until the incisions have healed for 10 to 14 days from the time of surgery.

Still Curious about the Feline Neuter?



Shadow, the cat being neutered in the slide show

We put together a slide show to walk you through a feline neuter. We invite you into the surgery suite to see how it's done. Be aware that these are actual surgical photographs.

[Feline Neuter Slide Show](#) (available at Veterinarypartner.com)

Date Published: 1/1/2001

Date Reviewed/Revised: 10/11/2011