

## Feline Declaw Home Care Instructions

A 'declaw' is often referred to as an 'elective surgery'. This phrase does not make it any less serious. Your cat is recovering from a *major* surgery, which requires continued support and nursing care at home to ensure a successful outcome. During the healing period (10 days), home care is just as important as the surgery just completed.

### **Activity**

We strongly advise strict confinement for the ten days following surgery. Strict confinement means: no running, jumping, stair climbing, rough-housing, etc. Keeping your kitty indoors and away from the elements plays a key role in smooth recovery. If you need to leave him/her alone for any period of time, confining your kitty to a crate, small room or area in your home is best.

*Excessive activity can lead to injury or serious complications that could result in failure of the surgical incision and necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your pet.*

### **Litter Box**

For at least two weeks, we ask that you fill your cat's litter box with shredded paper or a recycled newspaper litter instead of your normal litter. Avoid any litters (dusty) that have the potential to get inside of the incisions on your kitty's feet.

### **Paws**

We ask that you observe your kitty's paws daily for signs of redness, swelling, and/or discharge. A small amount of blood or bleeding is to be expected. If he/she is licking the area excessively, we can provide a protective collar to stop this behavior. Licking generally leads to chewing open the incisions, which can occur in seconds. If any of the incisions are coming apart, please call us immediately.

### **Diet**

Anesthesia can sometimes make patients nauseous. You may find, once returning home, that your kitty doesn't want to eat or vomits. This is acceptable for the first 24 hours after surgery. If he/she refuses to eat beyond that time, or continues to vomit. Please call us immediately.

If you have *any* questions or concerns, do not hesitate to call us at (936) 582 - 2225.