



Feline Declaw Discharge Instructions

Feline declaw surgery involves the permanent removal of the nails, usually the front feet only. This procedure is usually performed to prevent cats from scratching individuals and/or damaging furniture or other items by scratching. Declawed cats should be housed indoors and allowed outside only under direct supervision.

Make sure to follow these important instructions regarding after care for your cat:

- The surgery requires general anesthesia and an incision in the skin where each nail is located. Generally, 2-3 days after surgery your cat will be its usual self.
- You **do not** need to bring your cat back for suture removal. There are no sutures used in a feline declaw procedure. Glue is used to close the incisions.
- Bandages are applied to the paws and should be left on for at least 48 hours. If the bandages get wet or start to come off, go ahead and remove them. If you notice any bleeding to the incision sites, please bring your cat back to the clinic for bandages to be reapplied.
- Your cat receives pain and antibiotic injections at the time of surgery. Pain and antibiotic medication is dispensed at discharge and should be given the next day per label instructions.
- Use shredded paper as litter for the next 5-7 days. Yesterday's News is a paper-based litter that can be purchased from most pet supply retailers. Clay-based litter can stick to the incision sites and is not recommended.
- Your cat may not want to eat or drink anything until later on that night. Your cat's appetite should return within 24 hours.
- Keep your cat from licking or chewing at the incision sites. It is very important to keep the incisions clean and dry. No bathing or swimming for at least two weeks. Activity restriction is recommended during the next 7-14 days.

Please let us know if you notice any redness, soreness, drainage, excessive licking, vomiting, lethargy, or poor appetite. Please call us at (912) 285-7678 with any questions or problems.

GIBSON ANIMAL CLINIC

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