

Midvalley Animal Clinic

801-269-1213

Home Care Instructions for Cat Declaws

ALERTNESS: Your cat was given an anesthetic for surgery and may act drowsy or uncoordinated for up to 24 hours. For this reason it is important to keep him/her confined in a small room. Also be aware that bleeding from the paws may occur after coming home. This bleeding is not life threatening but can be a mess for your home. If bleeding occurs keep your cat in a kennel or box to restrict any walking until the bleeding has stopped. Your cat can be brought back to board in our clinic for \$15.00/night if your house has wall to wall white carpet.

ACTIVITY: Keep your cat in a small confined area as discussed above until you are sure there will be no bleeding. Keep your cat as inactive as possible until the feet are no longer sore and lameness is gone. This can take anywhere from one to four weeks. Your cat was given pain relievers after the surgery and sent home with oral medication for 3 days. If you feel he/she needs more these can be re-filled. After a declaw keep your cat indoors indefinitely as your cat cannot defend himself as well because of the declaw. The pain medication you received can be given every 6 to 12 hours.

FOOD/WATER: Your cat may eat and drink immediately after arriving home. Some cats however don't eat well for two days. Call if your cat has not eaten for two full days after coming home.

LITTER BOX: Use either shredded newspaper or regular clay litter that is dust free. Keep the box cleaned out daily for 10 days. If your cat shows aversion to the change in his/her litter box substance, remember that an infected paw is often easier to treat than a house soiling problem so keep all changes within reason.

INCISIONS: The toes should be checked daily for undue redness, swelling, and pain. Normally there will be scabs and tenderness at the tips of the toes. If infection is present most cats are very listless, painful and won't eat. Call if you think the declaw sites are infected. There are no sutures to remove and a follow up visit is not necessary if all goes well. Recheck exams are free.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Emergency services are available after hours at The Pet Emergency Room: 7200 S. 304 W. 801-871-0600. The client is responsible for all fees charged by the emergency clinic.

