

FACTS ON DECLAWING

- Declawing is a series of bone amputations. Declawing is more accurately described by the term **de-knuckling** and is not merely the removal of the claws, as the term "declawing" implies. In humans, fingernails grow from the skin, but in animals that hunt prey, the claws grow from the bone; therefore, the last bone is amputated so the claw cannot re-grow. Declawing is one of the most painful, routinely performed procedures in all of veterinary medicine. Each toe of the cat is amputated at the first joint. **Declawing a cat is equivalent in a person to amputating the entire first knuckle of every finger.**
- Declawing is done strictly for the benefit of the owner. There are NO benefits to the cat and NO good reasons to declaw.
- Declaw surgery is so predictably painful that it is used by pharmaceutical companies to test the effectiveness of pain medications in clinical trials.
- Declaw surgery exposes cats to the risks of general anesthesia and complications of the surgical procedure, which include bleeding, infection, lameness, nerve damage, gangrene, extensive tissue damage, and death.
- Declawing can lead to behavior changes. A declawed cat has no way to defend itself and may resort to **biting** more often. Due to pain, they may **stop using the litterbox**. Declawed cats with these behaviors are more likely to go to the pound, where an estimated 70% will be euthanized (killed).
- Some veterinarians will say that laser is better. This is simply not true. It can cause the same/worse side effects as the traditional method plus additional complications such as 4th degree burns.
- There are humane alternatives to declawing. Cats can be trained to use scratching posts. They should have their nails trimmed regularly. There is double-sided sticky tape that can be put on furniture to deter a cat from scratching there. There are nail caps called Soft Paws that are glued onto a cat's nails without harm.

Cat's name _____

Owner's name (printed) _____

Owner's name (signed) _____

ODAR Representative _____

*Source- www.pawproject.org