What is declawing?

- Declawing is a serious surgery where a cat's toe bones and claws are amputated. Despite its name, declawing isn't just the removal of a cat's claws. If the same procedure was performed on a human, his finger would be amputated at the last knuckle.
- Many cat owners are unaware of the risks of declawing and the pain that cats suffer.

What are the long-term physical and behavioral impacts of declawing?

- Chronic pain, lameness, bone spurs, necrosis, and nerve damage
- Increased biting (in compensation for the loss of claws)
- **Declawing outdoor cats is especially dangerous because it deprives them of the ability to defend themselves against predators or escape from danger. Not having claws decreases their chances of surviving attacks from other animals**
- Infection

Does declawing keep cats out of shelters?

- **No**. There are no studies finding that declawing keeps cats out of shelters. Furthermore, it's common for cats to be surrendered due to the behavioral problems caused by declawing.

Declawing is illegal in most European countries, as well as Israel.

- In the U.S., many Californian cities have passed declawing bans, including Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Burbank, Culver City, Berkeley and San Francisco.

If you have further questions please do not hesitate to ask your veterinarian!

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