

*Your cat gives you love  
It's up to you to keep her safe*  
**Let's start inside!**  
*(because she's safer there)*

Some people think that cats "want" or "need" to go outside or think that keeping them indoors is cruel. The fact is that letting them roam outdoors puts them in harm's way and can significantly shorten their lives.

**Our pets deserve a safe life**

Why would you purchase or adopt a cat, spend time and effort on toys and items, and then let it go out where it can be maimed or killed?

Your cat has everything it needs inside your home—including your lap. He has no real reason to go out on her own. Cats that never go out usually never develop the desire to.

**Dangers exist right outside your front door**

- Antifreeze
- Chemicals in garages and storage buildings
- Animals with diseases such as FeLV, distemper
- Parasites, skin diseases
- Can be eaten by predators
- Potential for harm caused by people who don't like cats
- Cars and other motor vehicles

**Keep your cat safe**  
*Keep your cat inside*

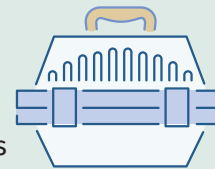
You may think that your cat will not roam, but that does not prevent hazards from entering your yard.

**Safety**  
*begins on the* **Inside**  
*inside your home, and inside your cat*

*Make certain your cat has the best transportation possible*  
**a carrier!**

Danger lurks between your car and the home or office door. A sudden startle can cause your cat to leap into a busy parking lot, or off into the great unknown.

In an accident, he could get thrown from the car. Crawling around in the car can impede the driver, especially if she gets under the gas or break pedals.



*Proper*  
**Caregiving**  
*For Your*  
**Cat**

*Dedicated to the preservation and promotion of pedigreed cats and to enhance the well-being of ALL cats*



**The Cat Fanciers' Association®**  
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*With the proper care, your cat will share many years of joy with you*

# Do

## Neuter/Spay Your Cat

Many breeders, shelters, and rescue groups alter their pets before placing them. But if your new companion has not been altered, do make that important appointment with your vet as soon as is feasible. Studies show cats can be safely altered at 12-16 weeks, and often earlier.

Cats will not “miss” being whole, and it will save them from a range of diseases and physical problems later. Plus, it will prevent them from “marking” their territory with urine.

Unless a cat is a part of a responsible breeding program, there are few reasons to keep it unaltered.

*Altering makes everyone happier—especially those living with the cat!*

# Don't

## Declaw Your Cat

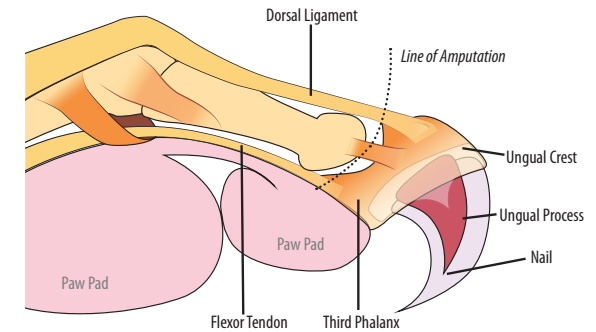
Declawing cats and the severing of digital tendons are usually elective surgical procedures without benefit to the cat. The cat will be in pain after the surgery, and may experience ongoing physical issues as a result of the surgery.

Declawing (onychectomy) is not a simple, painless procedure. It involves amputation of the toes at the last joint. Severing the flexor tendon (tendonectomy) prevents the cat from extending its claws, but the nails continue to grow.

Scratching is a natural behavior of cats and that cats may be defenseless without full use of their claws if they, either intentionally or unintentionally, go outdoors.

Owners can minimize or avoid scratching damage to household furnishings routine claw clipping, the use of claw covers, and by redirecting the cat's activity to acceptable surfaces.

CFA disapproves of declawing or tendonectomy surgery in lieu of alternative solutions to prevent household damage because of the pain from the surgery and the possibility of potential future behavioral disorders. In certain situations, including high risk of injury or disease transmission to owners with bleeding disorders or compromised immune systems, declawing may be justified in order to maintain the cat-human bond.



An onychectomy involves cutting through two tendons and removing the final digit (phalanx) of each cat's toes

# Create

## a Safe Home for Your Cat

Most breeders recommend that you start your kitten in one room that has been made safe for exploration and discovery and where the kitten can hear the normal activity in your home rather than in the basement or a room away from the daily activity. Furnish with a snuggly bed, a litter box, the litter suggested by the breeder, food and water to make the room a safe place for the newcomer

### room safety checklist

- remove all string, wires, plastic bags, or cord that the kitten could bite or swallow
- look for hiding places where you might not be able to reach in and extract the kitten
- if there are plants, make certain they are non-toxic
- cover or tack down any essential electrical cords

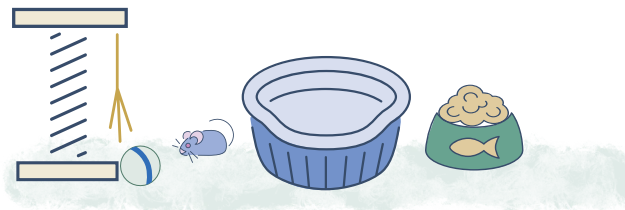
### provide

- toys appropriate to the size of the cat and not small enough to get swallowed
- sisal and/or corrugated cardboard scratching items so that they learn appropriate scratching surfaces early

### house safety checklist

Your cat is ready to explore its new home. Make sure that it is safe too!

- again, check for cords, string, plastic, and wire
- also hair ties, rubber bands, tiny toys - anything that a cat might ingest and have to be surgically removed
- make sure hazards like cosmetics, perfumes, essential oils and potpourri are out of reach
- put up cat toys with feathers, mylar, and string when you are finished playing so your cat can't eat them
- if you have any hard plastic kitty caves or houses, make sure that they have air holes in case they overturn and trap the cat
- keep laundry room doors closed, and washer and dryer doors closed



# Your Veterinarian

## Your Cat's Second Best Friend

Most people think of veterinarians only in terms of giving pets their vaccines. But cats need much more than shots to remain in good health. Because cats are so good at concealing symptoms and pain, we must often rely on a veterinary professional's diagnosis.



**Dental exams** – preventing and treating the various dental problems cats get helps to keep more than their teeth healthy. The effects of dental disease can cause a cat to stop eating because of the severe pain. Some periodontal diseases can also trigger an autoimmune response creating painful inflammation in the mouth.

**Heart exams** – cats can have a variety of heart issues that only a veterinarian can detect. This may include heart murmurs or cardiomyopathy.

Blood work, urinalysis, and other **lab work** may reveal hidden illnesses.