



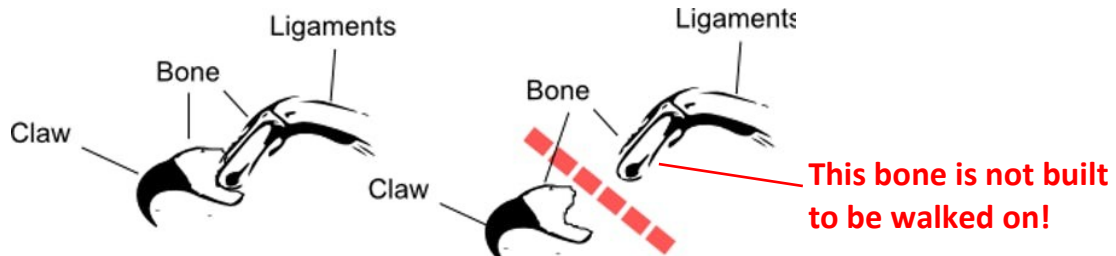
The Humane Society of Jefferson County

THE TRUTH ABOUT DECLAWING

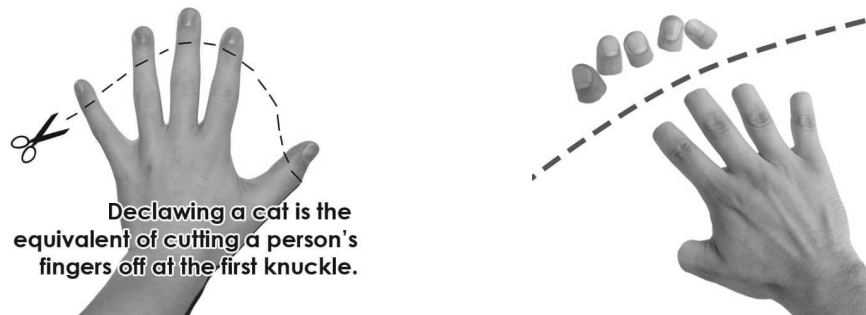


OUCH!

Declawing is **TEN** amputations
by **cutting** or **burning** through skin, bone, tendons, and ligaments



For a human, that would be like cutting off the tips of your fingers!



Declawing changes a healthy cat into a **disabled** cat

**Up to
20%**

of cats will develop **long term complications** from declawing including chronic pain & difficulty walking

18%

show **increased biting** and other defensive behaviors to make up for no longer having claws

15%

of cats will **stop** using their litter box



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Declawing Facts

Legally there is a growing worldwide trend to stop all declawing.

- **Declawing is defined as inhumane and/or illegal** in 28 countries including France, England, and Australia.
- **Declawing is also illegal** in much of Canada as well as a number of US cities and in the State of New York.

Medically, declawing is often considered unethical and is not recommended.

- The American Veterinary Medical Association defines declawing (onychectomy) as a “**Major Surgery**” and **advises against declawing**.
- The American Association of Feline Practitioners **discourages all declawing** except in cases where it would prevent an animal from being euthanized.
- **One quarter** of US veterinarians already **refuse to perform** a declawing procedure.
- Of the veterinarians that do report performing the procedure, most report they only perform **infrequent** surgeries and **advise pet owners to try other alternatives**.

Declawing can also cause a host of medical and lifetime problems for your cat.

- Studies report the rate of **post-surgical complications** between 1.4% - 82.5% (**averaging 39%**) depending on the type of procedure used.
- **Medical complications** include: pain, bleeding, swelling, difficulty walking, paralysis, nerve damage, infection, abscess, tissue necrosis, claw regrowth, deformed bone growth, self-mutilation, dermatitis, lethargy, and stress-associated bladder inflammation.
- **Post-operation behavior problems** have also been reported with up to 15% of cats not using litter boxes and 18% with increased biting.
- **Declawing may not even be a permanent fix** with studies reporting claws or sharpened bone spurs regrowing weeks or even years later.