

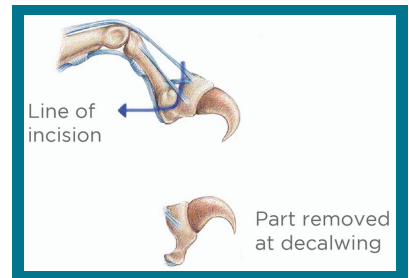
MY CAT HAS SOME BAD SCRATCHING HABITS

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Should you declaw your cat?

Some people declaw their cats to prevent or resolve a scratching problem. Declawing involves amputating the end of a cat's toes. Cats suffer significant pain while recovering from declawing.

The ASPCA discourages declawing and tendonectomies due to the extreme pain these surgeries inevitably cause. Both procedures are illegal in some European countries and considered animal cruelty. We only recommend such surgeries if a cat's caretaker has tried all other options to resolve scratching behavior without success and is considering euthanasia.



What to do about your cat's scratching habits

The best tactic when dealing with this habit is to not stop your cat from scratching, but instead to teach her where she can scratch. An excellent approach is to provide your cat with appropriate, cat-attractive surfaces and objects to scratch, such as scratching posts. If you catch your cat in the act of scratching an inappropriate object, you can try startling him/her by clapping your hands or squirting them with water.

Alternatives to Declawing your Cat

- Clip your cat's nails regularly or consider putting plastic caps on your cat's claws (Soft Claws). These caps attach to the claws with a temporary adhesive lasting four to six weeks.
- Consult your veterinarian or the HSHC Behavior and Training Manager at (317) 219-3342
- Utilize pheromones - available at pet stores or on Amazon
- Provide a variety of scratching posts with different qualities and surfaces. Once you figure out your cat's preference, provide additional posts in various locations.
- Remove or cover the desirable items
 - Turn speakers toward the wall
 - Put plastic, double-sided sticky tape, or sandpaper on furniture where your cat likes to scratch
 - Place scratching posts next to these objects

