MEOWCH!

A WAYSHOWING SLIDE SHOW ABOUT:

- THE UNIQUE DEXTERITY & COUNTLESS INTEGRAL USES OF FELINE PAWS & CLAWS
- THE ASTONISHING CRUELTY OF THE WIDESPREAD, PREMEDITATED MUTILATION/ CRIPPLING OF HEALTHY LIMBS OF CATS (AND SOME OTHER ANIMALS) INFlicted BY VETERINARIANS ET AL. 🐾
- SIMPLE BASICS OF HUMAN CARE OF CATS

This cruelty has become heavily marketed & inflicted in North America (and some other places).

Length: 32 pages

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FELINE DEXTERTY AND INGENUITY

Paws have so many important functions in the life of a cat.

The front paws of a cat are delicate sensory organs, organs of locomotion, and dexterous tools that perform countless tasks.

Cats walk on their toes, like ballet dancers.

A cat uses healthy paws and claws to grasp, groom, dig and rake litter material/earth, walk, balance, mark territory, defend itself and others (kittens, et al.), climb, play, knead, communicate, and perform countless ongoing routine tasks of living.

Cats have a dominant forepaw and hind paw, usually the left, just as humans have a dominant hand and foot, usually the right.

Compliments of Harriet Baker, E-Mail: harriet_baker@yahoo.com.
CATS

AMAZING FACTS

"Almost prehensile in their ability to grab, cuff, tap, hold, and snatch, a cat's front paws possess a versatility unique to felines."
See: Wild Cats of the World by Barbara Sleeper,

The DNA of the cat is closest to that of man of any animal other than the primates. The same part of the feline and human brain correspond to emotion. The brain-body ratio is the same for man and cat. See: "The Human--Cat Connection," and "Cats: Nature's Masterwork,"
National Geographic, June, 1997.
FELINE DEXTERITY AND INGENUITY

A clever cat can learn to open doors, through careful study of human behavior. If the handle is too high or requires a two-handed or strong turn, the cat may pounce on it and make a successful entry!
(From *You & Your Cat—A Complete Guide to the Health, Care & Behavior of Cats* by David Taylor, Alfred A. Knopf, NY, 1997)

A cat at the Vatican independently routinely opened the door to the kitchen at mealtimes by reaching up and turning the doorknob! See the book, *Cat Shots*, published by the National Geographic Society in 1998.

WALES A cat clung to the roof of a Ford Escort driven by staff nurse, Adria Bryan, on her four-mile ride to work in Rhyl, North Wales. Bryan told the Sun: “I must have been doing 60. Joe clung on for dear life with his claws to the groove at the top of the rear door. It’s unbelievable.”
(Reported on website: Ananova.com, and in *Metro*, 5/24/04)
The word, *cat*, in Greek, Latin, Russian, Arabic, German, and French has been traced to the Indo-European root word, *ghad*, which means to grasp or catch. Grasping and catching are integral to the essence of being a cat.
CATS WALK ON THE ENDS OF THEIR TOES/FINGERS LIKE BALLET DANCERS

Unlike some carnivores, which possess "plantigrade" feet, cats have "digitigrade" feet. In plantigrade animals, the body's weight is borne by a series of bones (the equivalent of the human finger and hand bones) placed flat on the ground. But the digitigrade cat walks on the ends of its fingers.

ALL CATS ARE SO MUCH ALIKE!

The puma is the largest little cat, and the rusty-spotted cat is the smallest. A puma can be nine feet long, including the tail. A rusty-spotted cat may be only two feet long and weigh only three pounds when fully grown. Rusty-spotted cats are so small that four of them together would weigh only as much as one average house cat.

Cats walk on their toes like ballet dancers.

The front paws of a cat are delicate sensory organs, organs of locomotion, and dexterous tools that perform countless tasks.
Cats' claws grow from the ends of each outermost toe bone. An intricate system of elastic ligaments and muscles allows the claws to remain sheathed under a fold of skin most of the time. Thus, the cat can move silently without catching its claws. When the claws are needed for hunting, defense, climbing, raking litter/earth, and countless other tasks, the muscles on the toes rotate the toe bones forward. This action pushes out the claws. Ultimately the claws return to their resting or retracted positions.
SCRATCHING IS INTEGRAL, PURPOSEFUL, AND PRIZED.

Cats scratch to mark territory, groom claws, stretch and exercise muscles, relieve boredom, release stress, and perhaps to meet other needs we do not yet understand.

Scratching is NOT a misbehavior.

Please see page herein titled It's Easy to Train a Cat to Use a Scratcher.
SCRATCHING IS INTEGRAL, PURPOSEFUL, AND PRIZED.

SCRATCHING IS NOT A MISBEHAVIOR.

"Claws are vital to the psychological and emotional well being of every cat, including indoor cats. Scratching is one of the most enjoyable things a cat does."

Kate Gamble, Cat Behaviorist
ONGOING VETERINARY CRUELTY
MAIMING, MUTILATION OF HEALTHY FELINE PAWS

DECLAWING IS AMPUTATION OF TOES WITH THE CLAWS AT OR JUST BEFORE THE OUTERMOST PAW JOINTS.

TENDONECTOMY IS EVERING OF PAW TENDONS THAT ALLOW ANIMAL TO CONTROL ITS TOES ("FINGERS") AND EXCISING SEVERAL MILLIMETERS FROM EACH TENDON.

Veterinarians Spread False Information Nationwide to Justify Their Cruel Surgeries that Cripple Millions of Cats

Please consider/share the exposé at:

- www.doctormwfox.org. Click on link: "Why Not to Declaw."

or

- http://tedeboy.tripod.com/drmichaelwfox/id115.html
ON GOING VETERINARY CRUELTY TO CATS IS CITED.

"I, for one, would like to see declawing or 'claw modification' banned as an inhumane and unnecessary mutilation."

Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, DACVB
Section Head, Animal Behavior
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine

"Declawing is an inhumane, unnecessary procedure that has many humane alternatives. It is never in the cat's best interest. The same goes for tendonectomy."

Betsy Libpscomb, President, Cats International, Inc.
ONYCHECTOMY ("DECLAWING")
OR PARTIAL DIGITAL AMPUTATION
IS DISEMBERRMENT THAT PRECLUDES NORMAL
WALKING, BALANCING, GROOMING, GRASPING,
RAKING LITTER MATERIAL, CLIMBING,
HUNTING, KNEADING, PLAYING, DEFENSE,
AND OTHER ONGOING TASKS OF LIVING.

The toes are amputated
at the first (outermost) knuckle.

RIGHT AFTER DECLAWING: REMOVED PARTS ON TABLE,
i.e., BONES, CLAWS, CLAW ROOTS, CONNECTIVE TISSUE,
TENDONS, NERVES, BLOOD VESSELS, FUR (From
Wild Discovery Guide to Your Cat, Random House, NY, 1999)

TENDONECTOMY
IS DISFIGUREMENT THAT RENDERS THE CAT
WITHOUT NORMAL USE OF ITS PAWS AND
CLAWS. THE CAT CANNOT EVEN GROOM
ITS OWN CLAWS, THUS NECESSITATING THAT
SOMEONE TRIM THE INCAPACITED, MUTILATED
CLAWS, LEST THEY GROW INTO THE PAWS.

Incisions are made deep enough to expose
The deep digital flexor tendons. The tendons
are isolated and several millimeters
of each tendon are excised.
"DECLAWING" EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF HUMAN HAND DISMEMBERMENT

By precluding the animal's ability to walk, balance, groom, grasp, play, communicate, excavate litter material, climb, and perform countless other significant life activities normally, these practices, themselves, constitute prima facie animal cruelty.

TRACING OF A SMALL WOMAN'S LEFT HAND

TRACING OF HAND WITH OUTER PHALANGES REMOVED: ANALOGOUS TO DECLAWING

TRACING OF HAND WITH TWO PHALANGES REMOVED—PERHAPS MORE ANALOGOUS TO DECLAWING AS THE CLAWS ARE LIKE SEPARATE, ADDITIONAL, UNIQUE UTENSILS!

NOW THE TOOLS OF LIVING AND COPING ARE GONE! PHYSICAL PAIN ASIDE, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL AND THINK WHEN YOU WENT TO A STRANGE OR FAMILIAR PLACE, AND THEN WOKE UP WITHOUT THE ENDS OF YOUR FINGERS AND TOES? (CATS WALK ON THEIR FRONT LIMBS, TOO.)

There is no health benefit to these procedures.

This cruel crippling has been followed by overwhelming negative behavioral / psychological and physical sequelae, as noted and described by many.
PITHY STATEMENTS OF NOTED VETERINARIANS

"One highly regarded British textbook by Turner and Bateson on the biology of cat behavior concludes a short section on scratching behavior with the following statement:

"The operative removal of the claws...is an act of abuse and should be forbidden by law in all, not just a few countries."

"That just about sums it up for me too."

Nicholas H. Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, DACVB
(The Cat who Cried for Help)

Head of Animal Behavior Section, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine

"The veterinary sector that condones feline de-clawing or other maiming of healthy feline limbs is admitting a profound ignorance of—and/or disregard for applied feline behavior and psychology and of veterinary bioethics."

"These horrendous procedures should be prohibited by law for all cats, large and small."

Michael W. Fox, PhD, MRCVS

Author, Syndicated Newspaper Columnist, Past-President of The Humane Society of the United States
PITHY STATEMENTS

"This barbaric, unnecessary operation... mutilation of millions of cats... needs considering. ... Fortunately, the British Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons are firmly against declawing, and consequently it is not allowed in Britain."

Roger Tabor (Understanding Cats)

ROGER TABOR, Naturalist, Biologist, Researcher

"Even as I write this, I can feel my blood starting to boil. Anyone who declaws a cat is indulging in a cruel and barbaric practice. I've always been against it, and nothing can change my mind... the request itself (to declaw), is an indication that the household is not suitable for a cat."

Louis J. Camuti, DVS
(All My Patients Are Under the Bed)
PITHY STATEMENTS

JENNIFER CONRAD, DVM
Founder of the California based Paw Project

"I'm making some enemies. I'm telling other vets that cutting off cats' fingers is wrong."

The Paw Project exists to increase awareness of the painful and crippling effects of feline declawing, to abolish the practice of declaw surgery, and to rehabilitate big cats that have been declawed.
PITHY STATEMENTS

SONYA FITZPATRICK

Author of What the Animals Tell Me and Internationally Known Animal Behavior Consultant

Sonya has spoken out against declawing as cruelty, during her many media appearances, and writes in her most worthwhile book: "Cats particularly suffer with declawing." She makes a plea for us to take responsibility for the animals in our care, and to treat them with "love, kindness, and respect."

"If we all take just a bit of responsibility on our own shoulders, we could do much to reduce the suffering of animals and make this world a better place for humans and animals alike. Please help."

WARREN ECKSTEIN
PET BEHAVIORIST

Warren Eckstein has spoken out against declawing in his book, How to Get Your Cat to Do What You Want (Fawcett, 1994), and during his TV guest appearance on Later Today.
PITHY STATEMENTS

Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
BEST SELLING AUTHOR OF
TRIBE OF TIGER

With her astute observations blended with her great understanding—and perhaps an innate spiritual bond with animals, Ms. Thomas passionately acknowledges the destructive, unethical, cruel nature of dismembering/disfiguring healthy feline paws.

She presents the graceful, resourceful tribe of felines that includes domestic and wild cats as beautiful beings with an amazing, rich range of expression and inner capacity for experience.
Around the pounds

VICTIMS OF IATROGENIC AND OTHER ABUSE

(THERE ARE MILLIONS MORE.)

Around the pounds

several declawed cats.

Chiquita, spayed female, 6 years, longhaired, black and white, declawed, nice cat but adults only and no dogs.

At 11 months Critter is already neutered and declawed. He will need a home with no other pets. For further info call (555) 123-4567.

CHYNA: White longhaired spayed female cat, declawed, deaf, no other pets. Beautiful blue eyes. Shot: UTD.

Declawing does not result in a home, permanent, loving, or otherwise.

Declawing is inhumane, and should not be tolerated.

It is a red flag for ignorance, incompetence, intolerance, and dysfunction re: humane, responsible animal stewardship.
AROUND THE POUNDS

STANDISH HUMANE SOCIETY
P.O. Box 824, Standish 04084; 781-834-4663, www.standishhumane.com

CATS
Shelter volunteers needed. We have about 75 cats of all colors and types in the shelter and they are examined by a veterinarian, tested for feline leukemia and feline AIDS, vaccinated, wormed and flea free.

- Brighton, white female, declawed, deaf, would like to be only pet, 5 years, sweet, a little chubby.
- Stella, Russian blue, female, shy, 6 months, microchipped.
- Smokey, gray and white, male, 1 year, affectionate and talkative.
- Brianna, calico, female, 1 year, dainty, playful and active, no small children.
- Jelly, black and white, female, well cared for kitty, owner went into nursing home.
- Peanut butter, calico, female, well cared for indoor cat, owner went into nursing home.
- Misty, buff and white, long haired, dainty and sweet, 2 years.
- Misty, black and white, female, friendly, 2 years.
- Sophia, calico, female, owner died and she was turned outside, attractive, 2 years.
- Dakota, black and white, male, friendly, 2 years, indoor cat.
- Montana, Maine coon, female, friendly, 2 years, must be placed with her brother, Dakota.
- Fiesta, tortie, female, 6 months, playful, good with other cats.
- Angel, black and white, female, dainty, attractive, 1 year.
- Shoo Shoo, dark tortie, female, nice disposition.
- Anion, tabby and white, handsome and Pierre, black and white, 8 years, declawed, males, always been indoor, special.
- Bridget, dark tortie, medium hair, sweet and friendly, 2 years.
- Marion, long haired dark tortie, female, sweet and shy, great with other cats.
- Diana, medium hair, black female, good with other cats, 1½ years.
- White angora, female, 2 years, deaf, sweet.
- Scout, tabby and white, female, declawed, would like to be only pet in quiet household, 6 years.
- Jenna, dark calico and white, female, friendly.
- Teddy, black, male, 6 months, good with cats and people.
- Bettina, white and calico, female, dainty, friendly and dainty, good with cats and people, 1 year, microchipped.
- Angel, calico, female, 1 year, shy, good with other cats, sweet, microchipped.
- Priscilla, long haired gray and white, female, attractive and sweet, 2 years.
- Wenn, Russian blue, male, 4 years, sweet, needs special loving home.
- Kayla, black angora, female, feisty, would like to be an only pet, 1 year, microchipped.
- Abigail, calico, female, medium hair, sweet, calm, 2 years, microchipped.
- Franny, black, female, sweet, attractive and good with other cats.
- Spaying and neutering assistance, call 508-224-7373 or 781-834-1803.

Friends of the Plymouth Pound
508-224-8651; www.gis.net; donations of blankets, towels and dog food needed.

- Sigma, orange, male, 14 years, declawed, afraid at shelter, special needs.
- Orange Crush, orange, male, special needs, sweet and affectionate.
- Stallion, black, male, handsome, 2 years, affectionate, needs to be only cat, FIV positive.
- Pink, black, female, special needs.

HULL SEASIDE ANIMAL RESCUE
All animals are spayed/neutered, tested and up-to-date on shots.
For information on other available pets, contact Hull Seaside Animal Rescue at 787-378-1195, Email: Seaside6564@aol.com, or http://www.petsfinder.org/petgol. HSAR is a non-profit organization staffed entirely by volunteers.
Bankruptcy auction and auction, 1 p.m., silent auction and cocktail reception and 3 p.m. live auction of designer doghouses, Sunday, March 21, Red Lion Inn, Cohasset, $25 in advance or $30 at door. Call to sponsor, donate silent auction items and architects.

Melisa & Vonna, mother & kitten dynamic duo. They are healthy but FELV+ and need to be adopted into a loving home with no other pets. Melisa is a petite tortie, while Vonna is a very fluffy Maine Cooneotropic tiger mix.

Iron, 10 years, declawed tiger cat who wants a warm window & a loving family.

Scotty is a distinguished-looking American Curl who doesn't like to share the limelight and wants to be only cat. He gets along well with kids and dogs.

NORFOLK COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
Call 781-821-8698 website: www.companionpots.org
Volunteers needed to help at PETCO stores on weekends with adoptions.
Society does not have a shelter; residential or commercial property wanted to build one. All cats stay with their owners or boarded at vet's offices until adopted. All are FELV/FIV tested and have up to date shots and spayed or neutered. Dogs either stay with their owners or are boarded at Great Scott Kennels in Stoughton; up to date on shots, have been spayed or neutered and enter into dog training for life of dog with new owners.

The Patriot Ledger
Saturday/Sunday, January 31-February 1, 2004
Cruelty to Cats is Cited.

Letters

Author comments on Examiner story on cats

Your story, "U.F. nonprofit sees cats through their nine lives," was inspirational to those of us who care about the welfare of cats (and other animals).

Furthermore, it spotlighted an important truth about the abdication of the responsibility of our veterinary industry for humane stewardship of cats. I have studied the astonishing widespread cruelty to cats inflicted by veterinarians and others in our country — namely docking of healthy feline toes at or just before the first joint (popularly called "declawing").

How telling it is that the founder of Purrfect Feline Friends of Cream Ridge, Kathy Pacak, "rescues many declawed cats from shelters." This tells us that declawing does not translate into a home for a cat (let alone a "loving" home). It also tells us that declawing does not translate into a cat's life being saved.

Members of our mainstream veterinary industry repeatedly posture the invalid, self-serving, assertions that declawing gives cats a home and saves cats' lives. However, what this cruel mutilation, dismemberment, crippling of healthy, dexterous uniquely feline paws does do, as can be verified, is increase veterinary cash flow of up to $450 per crippling. It takes about 11 minutes to cripple a cat by declawing or by the somewhat less popular crippling, equally inhumane procedure of tendonecgy.

The truth uncovered in Jane Meggitt's interesting piece is continually being verified by my colleagues who work in animal shelters. Added to the high rate of relinquishment of declawed cats is the high frequency of litter box problems, aggression, and/or lethargy that arises after the cruel paw mutilation.

Here's hoping that your story will serve to chip away at the seemingly insurmountable denial and dysfunction in our mainstream feline and small animal veterinary industry.

Harriet Baker

author of "The Shocking Truth About Declawing Cats"

The Cat Catalyst Inc.

Quincy, Mass.

ONYCHECTOMY ("DECLAWING") OR PARTIAL DIGITAL AMPUTATION IS DISEMBERMENT THAT PRECLUDES NORMAL WALKING, BALANCING, GROOMING, GRASPING, RAKING LITTER MATERIAL, CLIMBING, HUNTING, KNEADING, PLAYING, DEFENSE, AND OTHER ONGOING TASKS OF LIVING.

TENDONECTOMY IS DISFIGUREMENT THAT RENDERS NORMALLY RETRACTED CLAWS TO HANG IMMOBILE.


Note: Relinquishment of cats in European countries where maiming of healthy feline limbs is acknowledged as inhumane and is not inflicted is not greater than that found in North America where such cruel maiming is shamefully marketed and widely inflicted.
by columnist, Anne Raver, lamenting the declawing of her cat, 
Mrs. Gray (New York Times, August 13, 1992)

“She doesn’t flex her claws anymore, in that luxurious way she had 
while snoozing in the sun. She’s quieter, too, like a feisty soul 
beaten up once too often. We’ve taken away her last wildness, the 
dignity that comes from power.

“We tell ourselves it’s all right to do these things to animals. We 
have civilized reasons, like not letting them destroy our priceless 
possessions. We tell ourselves how we rescued them from the 
streets. After all, Mrs. Gray was a stray.

“We remove their claws when hey don’t respect our possessions. 
But we’d call it barbaric to remove the fingers of a thief.

“Mrs. Gray comes to sit by me now. She purrs and rubs her head 
against my hand. I suppose I could say she has forgiven me, in 
which case her love puts mine to shame. But I have stolen from her 
and she is the lesser for it.”
The little kitten had been left in a box at the PetsMart store with the message that she was hissy, biting, and not using her litter box, and her owners didn't want her any more. She was taken home by a caring volunteer who named her Kelsey and discovered that what her previous owners had stated was true; she was hissy, would bite, and would not use her litter box. However, her previous owners had left out the fact that she had been declawed on all four paws. A vet check showed that several of the claws on her back right paw were growing back in. The claw on one toe was growing back beneath the skin; another one was growing in crooked, and a third had been hurting her so much she had managed to tear it out herself. Kelsey was in incredible pain; no wonder she was in a bad mood so much of the time and didn't want to use her litter box! The pain she suffered when her paws touched the litter must have been excruciating!

After adjustment for other variables, being declawed and being a mixed breed was associated with an increased risk for relinquishment.

Gary J. Patronek, VMD, PhD; Lawrence T. Glickman, VMD, DrPH; Alan M. Beck, ScD; George P. McCabe, PhD; Carol Ecker, DVM

Stella Has No Feet

Learn the story of how a cat named Stella Stiletto lost her feet.

Stella Stiletto started her life like most cats with four feet. I believe she was born in 1998 but no one knows for sure. From all accounts she was a happy little kitten but over time developed a habit that she retains, even to this day, of rubbing her head on most anything.

In 2004, so I am told, her past “owners” brought her to a Vet and had her de-clawed because she was scratching her head repeatedly behind her ears and they were worried she was hurting herself. That was the day that Stella, then named Molly, said good bye to her claws in what should have been a routine yet needless operation. Stella’s rehab did not go well and within days both rear feet had become so infected that they had to be removed.

From this point on details are a bit fuzzy. From what I have determined Stella’s owners seemed interested in dealing with a footless cat with special needs. The Vet who had done the declawing agreed to keep her and bring her back to health. He planned to bring Stella home once his current cat died. Two years later Stella was still living under the Vet’s desk and his other cat continues healthily on - WITH ALL HIS FEET! Worst of all - the floors in the office were very slick tile and Stella had trouble getting around without slipping.

I discovered Stella when my late cat Steven (The best cat ever) was at the Vet’s just before his death from bladder cancer. I asked about adopting her. As a child I spent many years on crutches and I sort of related to her plight.

Once Stella was home, the first order of business was to rehab my loft so Stella could navigate.

This meant building a ramp up the steps, adding foot stools near the bed and runners for her to walk on. A cat with no back feet has no ability to jump so steps. Getting on the bed and sitting on chairs are a problem. Stella now navigates the entire loft and hopes to become a spokes-cat for disabled but rehirable pets everywhere.

Stella Facts:
- Weight - 9.6 pounds
- Length - 15.5 inches
- Favorite toy - TV remote
- Likes to sleep in the closet
- Greenish-Gold Eyes
- Has a bobbed tail from birth
- Likes to eat only dry food
FELINE VETERINARY EDUCATION & PRACTICE NEED A COMPLETE OVERHAUL

Cat advocates are calling for a systemic overhaul in veterinary education relative to cat care and stewardship. A beginning would be, they submit, the removal of the flagrant misinformation from the so-called authoritative volume, The Cornell Book of Cats. This book and many others falsely state that no negative behavioral (psychological) effects of declawing have been reported. Yet, Cornell staff, themselves, reported in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, January 1, 2001, that 18 of 57 cats subjected to declawing or tendonectomy exhibited at least one behavior problem THAT BEGAN AFTER THE SURGERY: an absolute frequency of 31.57% cats exhibiting negative behavioral sequellae with no statistically significant difference in observed behavioral aberrations between cats subjected to declawing and cats subjected to tendonectomy. Two of the cats, moreover, exhibited prolonged lameness and two would not cover their feces, IN ADDITION TO (1) NOT USING THE LITTER BOX and (2) BITING WITH AN INCREASED FREQUENCY/INTENSITY. One cat had (re)growth of paw/claw tissue that was abnormal/malformed.

Note: Declawing resulted in the same high rate of negative behavioral sequellae as did tendonectomy. Neither these data nor the dramatic number of negative sequellae, per se, is acknowledged in the authors’ (peer reviewed) conclusion!

PREPARED BY
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Shame on all who participated in this “study” and all other senseless cruelty to animals, under the name of “study” and/or otherwise.

This study, titled "Attitudes of owners regarding tendonectomy and onychectomy in cats," was not designed to uncover negative effects. These effects were reported, nevertheless, and then recklessly disregarded.
MEOWCH!

VETERINARY MUTILATION OF HEALTHY ANIMAL LIMBS IS ANIMAL CRUELTY.

"WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY NEGATIVE EFFECTS TO MUTILATING HEALTHY FELINE PAWS."

MAINSTREAM NO. AMERICAN VET

AGGRESSION
HYPERVIGILANCE
INABILITY TO EXERCISE, PLAY NORMALY
RADIAL NERVE DAMAGE
CANNOT BALANCE, NORMALLY
HEMORRHAGE
WOUND DEHISCENCE
INFECTION
GANGRENE; MORE LIMB LOSS
PERSISTENT & INTERMITTENT LAMENESS

LETHARGY/DEPRESSION
WITHDRAWAL

INCREASED RISK OF RELINQUISHMENT
CHRONIC PAIN
MUST RAKE LITTER WITH BONE STUMPS
ABNORMAL RE-GROWTH PAINFUL RE-GROWTH OF CLAWS
CANNOT WALK NORMALY DISSASSOCIATION
CANNOT COMMUNICATE NORMALLY
CANNOT CLIMB NORMALY
ABNORMAL STANDING POSTURE
IMPROPER ELIMINATION
LITTERBOX AVOIDANCE
MUST WALK ON BONE STUMPS
CANNOT WALK NORMALY
Veterinarian Edgar R. Folkers, Jr. reports that his office declaws 15 to 20 domestic cats each month—a third of all cats he sees. His own cat, Squirt, is declawed. His fees to maim cats by “declawing” range from $245 to $350. The average time it takes to amputate the toes (euphemistically: “declaw”) from a cat’s two front paws is reported as eleven (11) minutes in the veterinary literature. At a leisurely pace of 15 minutes to cripple one cat for the median fee of $300, Dr. Folkers spends 45 to 60 hours per year crippling cats for which he takes $54,000 to $72,000 — an average of $1200 per hour for permanently maiming 180 to 240 cats annually!

Atlanta Journal-Constitution January 31, 2003

"MONEY, UNLIKE ANIMALS, CAN TALK."
Anonymous
"Denial and rationalization are two great obstacles to human progress, along with ignorance, arrogance, and greed."

Albert Schweitzer
IT'S EASY TO TRAIN A CAT TO USE A SCRATCHER!

Place scratcher in a room where the cat spends a lot of time. Cats often like to stretch and scratch when they wake up from a nap.

To introduce the scratcher to your cat, try using a few pinches of catnip as a lure. (Kittens under 2 months old may be repelled by catnip, however.) Rub catnip on the scratcher and call the cat over to the newly scented scratcher. Freshen with catnip occasionally.

Scratch your nails along the surface. This will help your cat learn where to scratch. Cats are great imitators, as in “copy cat.”

After your cat begins to scratch, praise the cat; offer a food treat. (Small kittens can be trained by showing them the food treat and then placing the treat on the scratcher.)

If your cat has been scratching a chair, rug, or other household object, you can redirect this scratching behavior to the scratcher by placing the scratcher directly in front of the household object. Scratching is a territorial behavior whereby marks created by scratching serve as “signs, boundaries, messages” such as “Keep out.” “Stop here.”

Temporarily cover the previously scratched item(s) with a few strips of double-sided carpet tape or wrap/cover with aluminum foil. This will help to redirect scratching activity to the scratcher. Cats do not like the feeling of sticky tape or slippery aluminum foil.

Most cats take to this training quite naturally. If your cat is the exception, please call Cats International at 262-375-8852 for free help. Visit helpful website: catsinternational.org.

Remember: Healthy feline paws and claws are used in countless tasks of living, including walking, balancing, grooming, grasping (toys, food, prey), raking and negotiating litter material—as well as climbing, scratching, exercising, playing, kneading, communicating, and in ways we undoubtedly do not now understand! The feline forepaws are almost fully prehensile!

Trader Joe's sells a Cat Scratcher like this for $6.99!

Stores are all across the U.S.A. It comes with a bag of organic catnip for sprinkling: Cats use it! So simple!

Compliments of Harriet Baker, E-Mail: harriet_baker@yahoo.com.
It's Easy to Train a Cat to Use a Scratching Post!

A cat-appealing scratching post should be at least 30" tall, untippable, and covered with sisal rope or sisal material. Some cats also enjoy scratching on soft wood (e.g., cedar). Carpeting is too soft. If carpeting is used, it is likely that the cat may start scratching on other (unacceptable) carpeted surfaces.

To find out how to purchase or make an irresistible scratching post call Cats International at 262-375-8852 or visit website: catsinternational.org.

* Place the post in a room where the cat spends a lot of time. Cats often like to stretch and scratch when they wake up from a nap.
* To introduce the post to your cat, try using catnip as a lure for older cats. (Kittens under 2 months of age may be repelled by catnip.) Rub the catnip onto the rope and call the cat over to the post.
* Scratch your nails along the surface of the rope. This will help your cat learn where to scratch (cats are great imitators!).
* After your cat begins to scratch, praise him and give him a food treat. (Small kittens can be trained to climb the post by showing them the food treat and then placing it on the top of the post.)
* If your cat has already been scratching a piece of furniture, place the post directly in front of it. (Scratching is a territorial marking behavior.)
* Temporarily cover the previously scratched area with a few strips of double-sided carpet tape or wrap in aluminum foil. This will help to redirect your cat’s scratching activities to the post.
* Most cats take to this type of post quite naturally, but if your cat is the exception, please contact C1. They will find an effective solution for you and your cat.
Declawing is cruelty to cats

A good scratching post isn’t hard to find

Scratching posts work. Contrary to the beliefs of cat lovers who have purchased posts they wound up using as coat racks, veterinarians and feline behaviorists insist that a quality post, properly positioned, meets a cat’s need to scratch. To entice a cat into using a new scratching post, try attaching a favorite toy on a string or sprinkling the post with catnip.

According to Kate Gamble, a feline behaviorist in San Francisco, a cat’s dream post has the following traits:
• It’s stable. Cats don’t feel safe with a post that’s wobbly.
• It has a texture your cat likes. Most cats like sisal or rough carpet.
• It’s tall. Scratching and stretching go together. Make sure the post is tall enough so your cat can arch his back and stretch up to his full height. (For cats who scratch carpets, horizontal scratching ramps are an alternative. Gamble recommends one called Max Ramp.)
• It’s well-located. Place the post near a piece of furniture your cat fancies, near the litter box (cats like to scratch after they eliminate), or near where the cat sleeps (cats love a good stretch first thing in the morning).
• It has a reasonable return policy. Cats are idiosyncratic; one cat’s dream post is another cat’s coat rack.

Teaching a cat to use a scratching post/object is the best form of claw control!

Scratching is not a misbehavior!
How to Have a Good Cat
By Annie Bruce, Cat Owner Consultant, with Harriet Baker
www.goodcatswearblack.com

- Provide each cat with a scratching post or other scratching object.

- Provide a suitable litter box for each cat plus one extra, and place these in a safe, private location. Clean and change litter regularly. If cats have free access to outside, they can learn to litter exclusively outside.

- Feed nourishing food, whether dry, canned, table leftovers, in a safe, private place. Provide a bowl of clean, fresh water at all times.

- Adopt spayed/neutered cats with healthy, whole paws and claws. Do not inflict declawing or tendonectomy on any cat.*

- Provide a safe, private, comfortable space where the cat(s) can sleep peacefully. Cats sleep much of the day, and are more awake/active at night. Respect this natural feline "body clock."

- When a cat does something "bad," say "No." Do not use his/her name except when he/she behaves well and when you "converse" or "give gentle direction." Examples: "Come, Scotchie." "Good, Minnie."

- Familiarize your cat with the outdoors by spending time together outside learning the whereabouts of traffic, property boundaries, passersby. Cats thus can become "street smart," which training may save their lives. Unless there are inordinate threats to the cat's safety and welfare, allow cats time outside, if only on a harness & supervised.

- Play with your cat(s) and display gentle affection every day. Use toys, not your hands, in play. *Keep your touch and your words gentle, and your attitude appreciative and caring.*

* HEALTHY PAWS SERVE MANY IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS FOR A CAT.

* SCRATCHING IS NOT A MISBEHAVIOR.

* A LOG ON THE GROUND FOR OUTDOOR CATS TO SCRATCH IS A SPECIAL KINDNESS.

Trader Joe's sells a Cat Scratcher like this for $6.99!

Storrs are all across the U.S.A.
It comes with a bag of organic catnip for sprinkling.
Cats use it!
So simple!
"The heart of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Gandhi

"The thinking man must oppose all cruelties no matter how deeply rooted in tradition or surrounded by a halo."

Albert Schweitzer