

Declawing Checklist

The Cat Clinic and Village Cat Clinic no longer offer declawing as a procedure. Current data and observational trends suggest that declawing has many short and long term health effects on cats. As leaders in feline medicine, we believe our patients are better served by not continuing this practice.

Despite our personal decision to no longer declaw cats, we understand that this choice is not universally accepted. While we strongly encourage people to discuss alternative options with us prior to pursuing declawing, we realize that some people will elect to have their cat declawed at another veterinary clinic. If you decide to do this, we want to make sure it is done in the most safe and humane way possible. As such, we have assembled a “checklist” that NEEDS to be provided by the veterinary surgeon when choosing a clinic that still performs this procedure:

- Never have hind paws declawed. Four paw declaws leave cats defenseless
- Nerve blocks need to be routinely used and offered on top of general anesthesia
- Multimodal pain management during and for at least 10 days after surgery, including:
 - Non-Steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS)
 - Opioids
 - Adjunctive therapies such as gabapentin or amantadine
- Bandaging of both paws post operatively
- Use of a scalpel based surgical technique (laser or radiosurgery MAY be acceptable with a trained operator, however “laser declaws” can be disastrous with inexperienced surgeons). “Guillotine” methods should not be used
- Post-operative follow-up examinations included
- Anesthesia should include:
 - IV fluids
 - Blood pressure monitoring
 - Pre, intra, and post-operative pain control

Please keep in mind there are several demographics of cat that should never be declawed. These include mature, obese, or arthritic cats.

While The Cat Clinic believes that declawing cats is an unacceptable procedure for the well-being of the feline, we recognize that it will be some time before this is universally accepted. Please remember that if you do choose to declaw your cat, you are welcome to return to our clinic for routine or emergency medical care at any time.