



## **Shippensburg Animal Hospital, PC**

Serving you with locations in Mount Rock, Shippensburg and Carlisle

### **DECLAW INFORMATION FOR YOU TO READ AT DROP OFF**

You have decided to have your cat declawed. There is information you need to be aware of to make your cat's recovery easier for your cat and yourself.

The declaw procedure involves general anesthesia, amputation of the toes at the outermost knuckle and bandaging of the feet for 18 hours. There are no sutures placed in the toes. Your cat will spend at least one night in the hospital as part of the procedure. Once the bandages are removed, the morning following the procedure, your cat will be monitored for any bleeding prior to being sent home. We ask that you call about 2 pm the day after surgery to find out how your cat is recovering after the declaw surgery. If there has been any bleeding after bandage removal, your cat will spend another night with us for further monitoring. If not, we will let you know what time your cat can go home.

Because declawing your cat is painful, we ask that you give us permission to provide pain relief for your cat. If we feel that your cat is painful following surgery or the next day, we would like to be able to give your cat pain medication injections. If you are interested in further pain control at home, please ask at the time of pick-up so that we can send medicine home with you.

Once at home, we ask that you keep your cat as quiet as possible. We prefer that you confine your cat to a small bathroom for the first 48-72 hours at home. This helps the feet to continue to form a solid blood clot at the incision sites. If your cat gets excited, licks or chews the feet or shakes the paws, the feet may start to bleed. If this happens, immediately put your cat back in its carrier and then call us.

At home you also need to remove your cat's regular litter. We do not want any clay or clumping litter to be able to enter the surgery sites for the first 2 weeks following surgery. We have a recycled newspaper litter in pellet form that works well for the 2-week recovery period. You can also use the pine pellet litter or shred newspaper for your cat to use in the cat box. Some cats do not like litter changes and may be hesitant to use the cat box with a different litter. Watch your cat carefully to make sure that every day there is urine and feces in the cat box. If you do not see daily eliminations, your cat may be holding his eliminations or going outside of the cat box. If you have problems with this, please call the office for assistance.

Since your cat has to walk on its healing feet, you may notice decreased activity or holding paws up during rest or even when walking. This should decrease in frequency with every day following surgery. If your cat seems to have increasing discomfort, pain when the foot is lightly touched, or pain that lasts for more than 2 weeks, please inform the office. This may indicate that your cat is having complications from surgery.

