



## MONROE ANIMAL HEALTH

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**Onychectomy (declaw)** involves removing the toenail and the germinal tissue that produces the toenail. This extends to the back margin of the last digit. The skin is then sealed over the tip of the toe after removal of this tissue. The skin may be sealed with glue, absorbable or dissolvable stitches, or a combination of both. The paw is then wrapped for additional hemostasis (clotting).

### Litter Box

For at least two weeks, we ask that you fill your cat's litter box with Yesterday's News or shredded newspaper instead of your normal litter. Avoid any litters that have the potential to get inside of the incisions on your kitty's feet as this could cause pain & infection.

### Activity

We strongly advise strict confinement for the ten days following surgery. Strict confinement means: no running, jumping, stair climbing, rough-housing, etc. Keeping your kitty indoors and away from the elements plays a key role in smooth recovery. If you need to leave him/her alone for any period of time, confining your kitty to a crate, small room or area in your home is best.

*Excessive activity can lead to injury or serious complications that could result in failure of the surgical incision and necessitate re-operation. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your pet.*

### Paws

We ask that you observe your kitty's paws daily for signs of redness, swelling, odor, and/or discharge. A small amount of blood or bleeding is to be expected. If he/she is licking the area excessively, we can provide protective collar to stop this behavior. Licking generally leads to chewing open the incisions, which can occur in seconds. If any of the incisions are coming apart, please call us immediately.

### Diet

Anesthesia can sometimes make patients nauseous. You may find, once returning home, that your kitty doesn't want to eat or perhaps even vomits. This is acceptable for the first 24 hours after surgery. If he/she refuses to eat beyond that time, or continues to vomit, please call us immediately.

### Follow-up Care

We normally use dissolvable sutures for this procedure so unless told otherwise, you will not have to return for suture removal. Administer prescribed post-operative pain medication only.

**After-Hours Emergency Clinic: 318-410-0555**