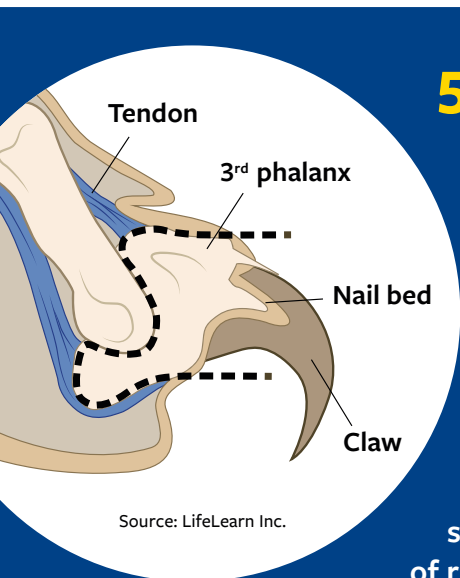




# Cat declawing

## Why it's a **bad idea** for your cat

**Scratching is a natural behavior for cats.** It removes the dead husks from their claws, marks territory (both visually and with scent glands in their paws) and stretches their muscles. Unfortunately, what is natural behavior for a cat often is considered misbehavior by a cat's human guardian, especially when furniture or other household objects are damaged in the process.



### 5 reasons to not declaw your cat:

**1** Declawing involves amputating the entire last part of the 10 front toes. A comparison in humans would be cutting off a person's finger at the last joint.

**2** General anesthesia is used for this surgery, which always has a certain degree of risk associated with it.

**3** Declawing, whether performed using a scalpel or laser, provides no medical benefits to cats and is a painful procedure.

**4** Nerves, tendons and muscles are severed along with the joints, making recovery from declawing painful and lengthy.

**5** Declawing robs a cat of an integral means of balance, movement and defense.

### 5 alternatives to declawing:

**1** Scratching posts offer an alternative to scratching on furniture. Cats can be trained to use these fairly easily, especially if sprayed with attractive scents, such as catnip.

**2** Discourage your cat from clawing furniture by using an aversive scent or spray on furniture, which cats generally do not like, such as citrus.

**3** Keep your cat's nails trimmed. If the claws are clipped as needed, cats will have less desire to remove the husks of dead claws through scratching.

**4** Nail caps are available commercially to cover the claws. A nontoxic adhesive is used to attach a plastic cap over each claw.

**5** Cats should be treated with respect. Declawing is banned in many other countries because it is considered cruel.



Speak with your veterinarian about alternatives to cat declawing.

Remember: your cat depends upon you for protection.

Use this QR code to find out more about why declawing is bad for your cat.

