

# DECLAWING:

## *It's not like a trip to the spa.*

(Unless your manicurist takes off the tips of your fingers.)

Many people think that declawing simply removes a cat's nails—the equivalent of having your fingernails trimmed. Sadly, this is far from the truth. Declawing traditionally involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe. It's like surgically removing the last knuckle of each of your fingers.

Cats need to scratch. It helps them exercise and mark their territory. There are kinder solutions than declawing to protect your furniture!

- 1** Provide sturdy, tall scratching posts, and put them where your cat currently scratches—in front of your fancy divan, for example. You can move them once she's come to like them.
- 2** Dangle a wand toy on and around appropriate scratching surfaces to entice her to use them.
- 3** Clap your hands when you catch her scratching inappropriately and entice her to the scratching post.
- 4** Use a product like Sticky Paws—a tape that deters cats from scratching—to protect the furniture.
- 5** Trim her nails, or use nail covers like Soft Paws to prevent damage.

For more tips, go to [humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/destructive\\_scratching.html](https://humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/destructive_scratching.html).

