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## **Declaw Aftercare Instructions**

Your cat has undergone surgery and general anesthesia. Your pet's behavior may be slightly altered for the next 24 hours. For example: your cat may be glassy-eyed, sleepy, nauseous, shivering or irritable. Listed below are a few helpful tips to make your pet's recovery easier for both of you:

- 1. Offer small amounts of food and water later this evening. Your pet may feel nauseous. It may take 24-48 hours for the appetite to return to normal.
- 2. **USE ONLY SHREDDED PAPER OR A PAPER LITTER SUCH AS "YESTERDAY'S NEWS"** (available at PetSmart) or litter crystals for the next 14 days. Access to other litter or dirt can result in infection.
- 3. Give your pet only the pain medication prescribed by our doctor. Over the counter human medications can be toxic to your pet.
- 4. **THE BANDAGES MUST BE REMOVED THE DAY AFTER SURGERY.** Give one dose of the pain medication 20 minutes prior to removing the bandages. To remove the bandage, loosen the white tape at the top of the bandage, then pull the wrap off like a sock. Do not use scissors because you may cut the skin. If you have difficulty removing the bandages, please bring the cat to the clinic and we will remove the bandages at no charge.
- 5. Check the toes daily for swelling or discharge. Keep the paws dry. You may notice a green or blue glue on the toes which is a skin adhesive used to close the incisions.
- 6. The recovery time varies with each cat. Most cats will be healed in 2-6 weeks. If you cat is limping more than 5 days after surgery please call. Larger older cats may take longer to heal.
- 7. If the wraps come off early, keep your cat quiet by placing it in a small box or carrier with a towel for padding. Some bleeding or spotting may occur but should stop as the cat calms down.

Please call the clinic if you have any questions or problems regarding your pet's surgery. Regular business hours are Monday thru Friday 7am to 5pm. A post-op exam is provided at no charge, yet some fees may apply if medications are needed. We will not be responsible for services received at another facility. We are not a 24-hour facility.