



**Birchwood
Animal Hospital**
For the love of animals since 1959

Birchwood Animal Hospital

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Feline Declaw Post-Operative Instructions

Because your cat has just had an operation to surgically remove the toenails from his/her front paws, please observe the following:

- There are no sutures to be removed but you should check the paws daily during the first week for swelling or discharge.
- The discomfort generally resolves quickly during the first week but individual cats, especially mature cats, may be noticeably sensitive for several weeks.
- You should contact the hospital if a cat persistently chews at the paws or is obviously lame or sensitive.
- We strongly recommend that cats be kept indoors once they have been declawed.
- Please protect carpeting and furniture as there may be some post-operative blood spotting or discharge.

Feeding A small meal (half the regular portion) may be offered upon arriving home. If this goes well and is kept down you can offer the remainder of a regular meal. Do not be alarmed if your pet refuses to eat, this can be normal for up to 24 hours following surgery. If a poor appetite persists, please contact us.

Water Your pet can drink normally and water should not be limited.



How To Stop Aggression After a Vet Visit (Multi-cat households)

- Segregate the kitty returning from the vet in a room alone for at least half a day. That gives him time to self-groom and remove all the icky clinic smell from his fur, which is so offensive to his cat buddies. It also allows the treated cat time to decompress from the stress of the vet visit so he's less on the defensive. All the cats may be more willing to become reacquainted after a cooling off period.
- Use a hand towel to pet-pet-pet the other household cats. Pay particular attention to the best-friend cat, rubbing the towel against his cheeks. This gathers the best-friend cat's signature scent, which can then be rubbed over the vet-visit cat to help re-establish communal family scent.
- Monitor the first several hours of the cats interaction, and segregate the treated cat immediately should there be a cat-bashing/hissy incident.
- For some situations it may be helpful to scent all the cats with a strong-smelling pleasant odor (fresh laundry perhaps) that not only makes them alike, but also distracts them from cat-bashing. For instance, rub your hands with the water from canned tuna, and stroke the back of each cat. That should encourage them to self-groom and potentially groom each other-creating a renewal of the family scent.

<http://cats.about.com/od/amyshojai/a/How-To-Stop-Aggression-After-Vet-Visit.htm>