

Declaw discharge instructions

Thank you for bringing your cat to Howard County Veterinary Service, P.C. Your cat has just been declawed, which is a procedure that removes the tips of all ten front toes. This procedure is highly regarded as very painful. However, at Howard County Veterinary Service, we believe in better living through chemistry. Your cat has been given a carefully planned multi-modal anesthesia and pain control protocol. The take home medication is the last mode.

Pain Control: You have been sent home with an Onsior tablet. Your cat has already received a dose prior to the procedure yesterday as well as another dose this morning. Please give your cat another dose of this tablet following label instructions TOMORROW MORNING. Despite our pain control protocol, your cat may be a little sore following surgery. However, a few days following surgery, your cat should be relatively pain free.

Activity: The incisions from the declaw are held together with tissue glue. However, it is important to protect those incisions. Cats that are declawed should not go outdoors anyway. This is especially important for a week following declawing. No jumping, running, or rough play for 10-14 days to avoid bleeding from the paws. After 10-14 days, your cat can return to normal activity. Excessive activity often leads to re-injury or serious complications. This means additional expense to you and added discomfort to your pet.

Anesthesia: When your cat is discharged, they may still be groggy from the anesthesia. They may appear depressed, wobbly and may tremble. Your cat should be allowed to recover in a quiet room at home away from other pets. Check on their progress intermittently.

Kitty Litter: We recommend removing any clay-based or clumping litter from your litter box as this type of litter can get stuck in the incisions and cause complications. You may tear pieces of newspaper into strips or buy a paper-based kitty litter like Yesterday's news. You may go back to using clumping litter in 2 weeks.

Monitoring: Every pet's recovery process is different, but your cat should be eating and drinking normally as well as urinating and defecating normally by the evening that you bring them home. If your cat seems excessively painful, moody, or reluctant to move, contact us immediately as he/she may need stronger pain medication. Also, continue to monitor the incisions for excessive swelling or drainage.

Complications may lead to permanent lameness and pain for your cat, so it is important to address them early. Cats may continue to favor one or both paws for 4-6 weeks following surgery.

Thank you for your continued support of Howard County Veterinary Service. If you have any questions regarding your cat's recovery, don't hesitate to contact us at (660)248-3382.