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Post-Declaw Home Care Instructions

Declaw

A surgical procedure under general anesthesia in which each nail and associated bone (to prevent nail re-growth) is removed from the front feet.

What you need to know while your pet is healing from surgery

- **Do not use normal cat litter for the next 10 days** – we will supply you with Yesterdays News[®] litter to use while your pet heals (included in cost of procedure). This reduces the opportunity for infection to occur.
- **Monitor front paws** – Monitor surgical sites on each toe for swelling and oozing of blood or pus. Contact us if you notice any of these signs or if your cat refuses to bear weight on front paws.
- **Incision Licking** – If your cat is licking its front paws in excess, it is important to obtain an e-collar from Preston Animal Hospital to prevent this from occurring. Excessive licking of the incision causes irritation, swelling, and can lead to infection.
- **Recovery Time** - Expect that it will take about 2-6 weeks before your cat walks completely normally. The younger the cat, the quicker the recovery.
- **Pain Medications** - Since the declaw procedure is particularly painful, we are sending your cat home with Buprenex- this is a strong pain reliever similar to morphine.
 - **Buprenex instructions- Remove syringe top and give entire contents of syringe in the mouth (as shown at time of discharge) every 12 hours until gone.**
- **Sutures (stitches)** - There are **no sutures to remove**. The surgical sites were closed with a surgical adhesive.
- **Food/Water** - Offer normal amount at home, but be aware that appetite may not return to normal for a day or two after surgery
- **Keep feet dry for 10 days** - Do not wash the feet or apply anything topical without asking us first. Excess moisture around the surgical site provides the perfect environment for an infection to occur.

Call Preston Animal Hospital if you notice any of the following:

- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Refusal to eat, greater than 24-48 hours post surgery
- Severe pain (expect mild discomfort)
- Refusal to bear weight on paws
- Excessive licking or chewing at toes