

Onychectomy

“Declaw”

In order to provide the highest quality care for your pet, the staff at Rush Animal Care Clinic feels that you should be fully informed about the procedure, risks, and benefits involved with an onychectomy. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have concerning today’s procedure.

Procedure:

1. Prior to surgery, your cat will receive injections of both antibiotic and pain reliever to make him or her more comfortable. He or she will receive an injection of an anti-inflammatory to aid in comfort. If your cat is greater than 8 pounds, we will want your cat to have another injection of anti-inflammatory the day after surgery. If your cat is greater than 8 pounds, we may need to give him or her stronger narcotic pain medication the day of surgery. Larger cats hurt more when they try to support their weight on bandaged feet. These medications are to make your cat more comfortable with less pain.
2. The surgical procedure itself involves the removal of the last bone on each toe. This is necessary since the nail grows from the end of the last bone. After thorough inspection for bone fragments, skin-adhering glue is used to close the incision.
3. Your cat is allowed to rest until early afternoon when his or her vitals are reevaluated. If the progress is satisfactory, your cat will be released into your care.

Possible Complications:

1. Anesthesia complications, such as prolonged recovery, vomiting, diarrhea, drop in or loss of appetite, organ impairment or dysfunction, death.
2. Infection of wound
3. Delayed closure of surgical incision
4. Self-inflicted trauma to the wound
5. Circulatory disorder due to use of the tourniquet and bandages
6. Hemorrhage (caused by ruptured vessels)
7. Lameness due to wound infection

Benefits:

1. The removal of the claws can make cuddling with your cat a more pleasurable experience for you.
2. Claw removal reduces the severity of damage to your furniture and other belongings.
3. This procedure reduces the probability of self-inflicted injuries.
4. During play with people and other pets the likelihood of scratches will be decreased.