

Humane Society of Atlantic County
1401 Absecon Blvd.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
Tel: (609) 347-2487 Fax: (609) 344-0369
Website: www.hsacpet.org



Dear New Pet Parent,

Thank you very much for adopting your new family member from our organization. You have helped us save another life, and we hope you and your new pet will be very happy together.

The first few days home will be a chance for you and your new pet to become acquainted with each other. Your pet may need to be kept separate from your other animals and should not have run of the house until the transition is complete. If you have adopted a dog or puppy, some type of containment is needed to ensure that both your pet and your home stay safe. Crates are available for purchase at our shelter as well as most pet supply stores. Cats and kittens should have their own litter box to start with and be kept in a separate room from your other animals during this period of transition.

The pets we place in new homes have undergone a structured temperament evaluation to ensure they are appropriate for adoption. Some animals may display different behavior after coming into a new home, so please use common sense while you are getting to know your new pet.

All of the available medical information for your new pet is given when you take your new pet home. With your adoption, you receive a free standard office visit with our veterinarians within 30 days from the date of adoption. Some animals may need booster vaccines at a specific time. You can schedule these boosters by calling our veterinary services department at (609) 348-8076. Fees apply for any vaccine needed other than Rabies. If you have any questions or notice any medical problems not seen at the time of adoption, please do not hesitate to contact us for direction.

Within this packet is information we hope you will find helpful. Take the time to read everything and keep your pet's medical records in a safe place. We are committed to helping you with your pet and any health, behavioral, or training concerns you may have. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us and allow us to help in any way possible.

Thank you again for adopting a shelter animal and saving the life of a homeless pet.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Dash

Executive Director

Declawing Cats: Far Worse Than a Manicure

Courtesy of the Humane Society of the United States

Declawing is a topic that arouses strong feelings. Some people believe it's cruel and unnecessary, while others think it has its place.

Why people declaw cats

People often mistakenly believe that declawing their cats is a harmless "quick fix" for unwanted scratching. They don't realize that declawing can make a cat less likely to use the litter box or more likely to bite.

People who are worried about being scratched, especially those with immunodeficiencies or bleeding disorders, may be told incorrectly that their health will be protected by declawing their cats. However, declawing is not recommended by infectious disease specialists. The risk from scratches for these people is less than those from bites, cat litter, or fleas carried by their cats.

Cats are usually about 8 weeks old when they begin scratching. It's the ideal time to [train kittens to use a scratching post and allow nail trims](#). Pet caregivers should not consider declawing a routine prevention for unwanted scratching. Declawing can actually lead to an entirely different set of behavior problems that may be worse than shredding the couch.

What is declawing?

Too often, people think that declawing is a simple surgery that removes a cat's nails—the equivalent of having your fingernails trimmed. Sadly, this is far from the truth.

Declawing traditionally involves the amputation of the last bone of each toe. If performed on a human being, it would be like cutting off each finger at the last knuckle.

How is a cat declawed?

The standard method of declawing is amputating with a scalpel or guillotine clipper. The wounds are closed with stitches or surgical glue, and the feet are bandaged.

Another method is laser surgery, in which a small, intense beam of light cuts through tissue by heating and vaporizing it. However, it's still the amputation of the last toe bone of the cat and carries with it the same long-term risks of lameness and behavioral problems as does declawing with scalpels or clippers.

A third procedure is the tendonectomy, in which the tendon that controls the claw in each toe is severed. The cat keeps his claws, but can't control them or extend them to scratch. This procedure is associated with a high incidence of abnormally thick claw growth. Therefore, more frequent and challenging nail trims are required to prevent the cat's claws from snagging on people, carpet, furniture, and drapes, or growing into the pads.

Because of its complications, tendonectomy may lead to declawing anyway. Although tendonectomy is not actually amputation, a 1998 study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association found the incidence of bleeding, lameness, and infection was similar for tendonectomy and declawing.

After effects

Medical drawbacks to declawing include pain, infection and tissue necrosis (tissue death), lameness, and back pain. Removing claws changes the way a cat's foot meets the ground and can cause pain similar to wearing an uncomfortable pair of shoes. There can also be a regrowth of improperly removed claws, nerve damage, and bone spurs.

For several days after surgery, shredded newspaper is typically used in the litter box to prevent litter from irritating declawed feet. This unfamiliar litter substitute, accompanied by pain when scratching in the box, may lead cats to stop using the litter box. Some cats may become biters because they no longer have their claws for defense.

What you can do

Scratching is normal cat behavior. It isn't done to destroy a favorite chair or to get even. Cats scratch to remove the dead husks from their claws, mark territory and stretch their muscles. The Humane Society of the United States opposes declawing except for the rare cases when it is necessary for medical purposes, such as the removal of cancerous nail bed tumors.

Many countries feel so strongly about the issue that they have banned the procedure. But you don't have to let your cat destroy your house. Here's what you can do:

- [Keep his claws trimmed](#) to minimize damage to household items.
- Provide several [stable scratching posts](#) and boards around your home. Offer different materials like carpet, sisal, wood, and cardboard, as well as different styles (vertical and horizontal). Use [toys](#) and [catnip](#) to entice your cat to use the posts and boards.
- Ask your veterinarian about soft plastic caps (such as Soft Paws) that are glued to the cat's nails. They need to be replaced about every six weeks.
- Use a special tape (such as Sticky Paws) on furniture to deter your cat from unwanted scratching.

Unnecessary procedures

Declawing and tendonectomies should be reserved only for those rare cases in which a cat has a medical problem that would warrant such surgery, such as the need to remove cancerous nail bed tumors. Declawing does not guarantee that a cat will not be taken to a shelter if other problem behaviors occur, such as biting or not using the litter box.

Declawing is an unnecessary surgery which provides no medical benefit to the cat. Educated pet parents can easily train their cats to use their claws in a manner that allows everyone in the household to live together happily.

Feline Behavior Problems

Courtesy of Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

The natural lifestyle of the cat is characterized by low population density, regular scheduling of activities, infrequent interaction between adult cats, defined territories, and a dominance hierarchy with only one reproductively-active male in each society. Obviously, many households depart from some or even all of these conditions, thus causing a wide range of social-stress symptoms. The signs will depend on the individual cat and situation and may include house soiling, aggression, withdrawal, household destruction, and changes in eating and grooming habits. Such responses are considered behavior problems by owners.

House Soiling

Failure to use the litter box, or house soiling, is the most common behavior problem of cats. It may be litter aversion, a scent-marking activity, or a medical problem. **Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD)**—formerly known as feline urologic syndrome (FUS)—accounts for a significant number of house-soiling cases. Signs of FLUTD include inappropriate urination and passing of bloody urine. Litter box aversion results from association with painful urination or an urgency to urinate. FLUTD can be a life-threatening problem and medical treatment from a veterinarian should be obtained.

Scent marking or spraying is performed as the cat stands facing away from its target, quivering its tail. The target is usually a vertical object such as a window, cabinet or stereo. Uncastrated males mark their territories by urine spraying. Unspayed females may spray when they are in heat. Neutering will solve most spraying problems. However, cats of either sex may spray if there are too many cats in the household. If reducing the number of cats in the household is not possible, treatment with a psycho-active medication may be necessary. Inappropriate defecation or nonspraying urination may have the same motivations.

In contrast to spraying, urination or defecation is performed in a squatting position. The house soiling cat usually chooses rugs, bathtubs, beds, basement floors or other horizontal surfaces. Solving the problem begins with analyzing the location of the elimination. Elimination near the box indicates the litter or box is rejected, whereas elimination elsewhere is probably a preference for the location or substrate. Stress, especially caused by additional animals or people in the household, causes some cats to become more fastidious about their litter. They will also do the same if their litter box is cleaned too infrequently. A first step might be cleaning litter boxes daily instead of weekly. Changing brands of litter, too little litter in the box, overuse of deodorizers, or a poor box location can also lead to house soiling. More boxes, larger boxes, fine-grained clumping litter, and frequent cleaning solve most soiling problems.

Aggression

Feline aggression directed towards people is either predatory/playful or irritable. Stalking and pouncing on a person's feet or ankles is typical of predatory aggression. If the cat is young, the aggression is probably play oriented. In these cases, the bite is usually inhibited. However, if the owner has not corrected the cat for playing too roughly, it may not have learned to inhibit its bite. Playful aggression is best redirected towards swinging toys. Irritable aggression usually occurs when the cat is being stroked too roughly or excessively. Petting the cat more gently and for shorter times should resolve this problem.

Redirected aggression occurs when a cat sees another cat but cannot reach it and attacks the owner or another cat in the household instead. To treat redirected aggression, remove the cat to a quiet dark room and isolate him until he is calm. Don't try to handle the cat—push it with a cardboard shield to maneuver it into a quiet room. Try to prevent visual contact with strange cats—the usual cause of redirected aggression.

Aggression among cats in the same household is the most common feline aggression problem. Introduction of a new adult cat will usually provoke aggression. However, aggression can also occur between cats that had lived peacefully together for years. Redirected aggression is a frequent cause. Sometimes a physical change, or a change in odor can precipitate an attack. Gradual reintroduction of the cat, with or without psychotropic medications, is necessary.

Destructive Behavior

Clawing and Scratching: Clawing or scratching behavior is a grooming behavior that loosens old layers of the claw. It may also be a form of marking behavior. Whatever the motivation for scratching, it is often an undesirable behavior especially if the new sofa or draperies become a scratching site.

Scratching habits can be prevented from developing. If kittens are encouraged to use a scratching post, they usually will not abuse furniture. A good scratching post should have loosely woven material to allow the cat to hook its claws in the fabric. Hemp is a preferred scratching material. Cats scratch more often when they

awaken and when greeting a returning owner. Therefore, locate the post near the cat's usual sleeping place and the front door. Carpeted climbing trees also help. The best teacher of a kitten is its mother, so choose kittens from queens that use a scratching post. If destructive clawing persists, discuss other solutions with your veterinarian such as the application of vinyl nail caps.

Wool Chewing: Wool chewing or sucking is a behavior problem that occurs with greater frequency in Siamese or Burmese cats than in other breeds. Wool sucking differs from non-nutritive suckling that many early weaned kittens will perform. Early weaning may or may not cause wool chewing. There is no evidence of a nutritional deficiency, but it could be a craving for fiber or indigestible roughage. Thus, feeding a high-fiber diet, providing safe plants and strips of tough meat for the cat to chew are helpful aids in redirecting the cat's behavior.

Wool chewing is usually presented as a problem when the cat is an adult. The behavior is characterized by chewing with the molars. The material chewed is usually wool, but in the absence of wool the cat will generalize to other materials including upholstery. The behavior is sporadic, but large holes can be produced in a matter of minutes. Treating the wool object with cologne and a solution of hot pepper sauce will help teach the cat not to chew the item. The cat associates the smell of the cologne with the unpleasant taste and avoids objects that smell of the cologne.

Plant Eating: Cats frequently eat grass. Therefore, it is not surprising that cats may eat house plants. Plant eating can have serious consequences to the cat because many house plants are poisonous. The best solution is to provide green plants that are safe for cats to eat. Check local pet stores to purchase safe edible plants for your cat. The cat needs to learn to discriminate edible from nonedible plants. A water squirt gun is an effective aid in the discrimination process. Another method is to spray the leaves of the plant with a hot pepper solution.

Prevention

Preventing problems is often the easiest approach. Several problems, such as house soiling and aggression, occur more frequently with intact male cats. Also, castrated males do not roam nearly as far, thus limiting their social contacts, fights, and contact with automobiles. Females may be as protective of an area as males. A neutered female will not attract free-roaming males, and there will be fewer fights in the backyard during the breeding season.

If you want to keep several cats in your house, the ideal way is to raise them together as kittens. It is not necessary that they be littermates. An adult cat will be much more likely to accept a kitten as a companion than another adult. Also, an adult of the same sex is more threatening than one of the opposite sex.

Gradually introduce a new cat to an established household. First, confine it to a room for the first few days, then to a cage in the doorway of the room. The resident cat(s) may investigate for another few days before allowing direct contact between the cats. The new cat should continue to have a room or cage to which it may retreat.

Resident cats which are especially attached to people should receive extra attention during this period. Some of the anxiety may be alleviated by giving the cat an anti-anxiety medication. However, if the resident cat displays persistent aggression, house soiling, or withdrawal, it might be advisable not to keep the second cat. While two cats may become attached to one another, there is no apparent benefit to keeping many cats in one house. In fact, the stress produced by overcrowding may be detrimental to them.

Coping with Change

Changes in daily routine or moving are stressful situations for cats. Cats may require extra attention from the owners during the changeover and, if possible, the change should be made gradually. There are many anecdotal accounts of cats returning to homes that are hundreds of miles from their owner's new residence. Whether true or false, cats do show remarkable ties to their home range, starting when they are quite young.

Adjusting a cat to a new home begins by confining it for at least one week in a comfortable, safe area (room or cage). Then allow the cat to explore the rest of the house.

Behavior Modification Techniques

Realistically, problems may be beyond the prevention stage, and need treatment. There are different methods that can be used to help cats learn more acceptable behavior patterns. The method chosen should be appropriate for the problem you are trying to correct.

Aversion uses an obnoxious stimulus (e.g., hot pepper sauce or strong perfume) to teach avoidance. It is effective for oral behavior problems such as wool sucking or plant eating.

Desensitization works well for managing fear or anxiety. First expose the cat to nonfearful stimuli and then gradually increase the intensity of the stimuli over time. For extreme cases, the use of antianxiety medications is helpful in the initial desensitization process.

Punishment for misbehavior is only effective when the cat is caught in the act. Cats are unable to associate their actions with punishment unless the two occur within minutes of one another. Cats differ from other species in the type of punishment that is most effective to change behavior. The cat must not associate the owner with the action, otherwise the cat learns to avoid the behavior only in the owner's presence. The most effective techniques are using a water squirt gun or throwing a rattle nearby. The cat does not associate these punishments with the owner, but rather with the location or their behavior.

Rewards are used for natural behavior that resembles behavior ultimately desired. Rewards may be in the form of food treats or stroking the cat.

Drugs

The veterinarian may prescribe antianxiety medications, hormone treatments or mild tranquilizers. These drugs help reduce aggression, eliminate territorial marking, and decrease fear during a cat's adjustment to the changes in its environment or routine. Drug therapy has successfully stopped spraying habits when it persisted after castration. However, the aim of the owner and the veterinarian should be to remove the cause of the stress.

Poorly socialized animals may never overcome their fears. Antianxiety medications may help a timid cat through the adjustment period. Extra attention from the owner is important during times of stress.

Adjustment

If the stress is inside the household, expose the cat to the stimulus slowly for increasing time periods. For example, a new member of the household may begin calmly talking to the cat for short time periods, several times a day. Finally, the person can progress to petting and holding the cat. Of course, this only is successful if the person really does want to become friendly with the cat. If the problem is a dog, the dog must

simultaneously receive some social training. An aggressive cat being introduced can be calmed with medication during this period.

Caging a cat might be a useful addition to therapy. Separating two aggressive cats will mechanically accomplish a disruption of the behaviors associated with the social problem. The behavioral methods already discussed may then be started after several days or a week.

With patience and an understanding of your cat's needs, you and your veterinarian can work together and restore harmony in the home.

Adding another Cat or Kitten to your family

Courtesy of Metroanimal.org

Introduction

When a new cat meets your resident cat, the two need time to get used to one another. Careful planning is essential to a successful introduction of a new cat into your home. Take it slowly. A pattern of fear and aggression can be established in one or two encounters, and is much harder to break than to avoid. A certain amount of hissing and posturing is to be expected, but don't risk an all-out fight. When in doubt, wait a few more days before proceeding to the next step.

Ideally, the New Cat would be younger and smaller than the Resident Cat, and would be a sexually immature or spayed/neutered member of the opposite sex. The more the introduction deviates from the ideal, the more difficult it may be. This does not mean it is impossible, only that it may take longer. Avoid bringing a rambunctious kitten into a home with cats older than eight years; think carefully about any age difference greater than five years. Also note that strays and hand-raised kittens often have a more difficult time adjusting to others.

Step One: Preparing An Isolation Area

Any new cat, but particularly a rescued stray or one from a shelter, must be physically isolated from your Resident Cat for 10 to 14 days to make sure he is not incubating a contagious disease. He must be thoroughly examined by a veterinarian for parasites and disease and tested for FeLV (feline leukemia, which is contagious between cats) and FIV (the feline equivalent of AIDS, contagious between cats) before it will be safe for him to come into contact with the Resident Cat. It also is not unusual for stray or shelter cats to have URIs (upper respiratory infections or "kitty colds"); it is better to avoid exposing your Resident Cat.

Here are the steps involved in setting up an isolation area:

- Set up the area in advance, to minimize disruption to the Resident Cat upon arrival of

the New Cat. It should be a room with a door that can be closed to ensure that there is absolutely no contact between the New Cat and the Resident Cat. A spare bedroom is ideal; a bathroom is fine.

- If the Resident Cat usually sleeps with you, do not use your bedroom as the isolation area.
- If the bathroom will be the isolation area and the Resident Cat's litter box is currently located there, move the box to a new spot. If possible, do this at least two weeks before bringing the New Cat home, moving the box gradually.
- The isolation area should be cat-proofed for safety and include food and water, toys, a litter box placed as far as possible from the feeding dishes, and a cave-like hiding box lined with something comfortable – preferably an unlaundered item of clothing you have worn (a T-shirt, etc.).
 - With cats or kittens that have lived outside and have no prior litter box experience, using freshly scooped, but slightly used, litter helps that transition. It is also best to avoid using any latex-, foam-, or rubber-backed rugs in this area until sound litter habits have been established.

The worst mistake is to bring the new cat in and put him down on the floor in front of the existing cat, and to expect them to "make friends" or "work it out."

Step Two: Getting The New Cat Settled In

- If possible, have a stranger or non-family member bring the New Cat into the house. In any case, the New Cat must be in a carrier.
- Take the New Cat directly into the isolation area; do not stop to greet the Resident Cat. Open the carrier door and leave the room immediately.
- Wash your hands. Spend at least an hour with the Resident Cat. Do not go back and check on the New Cat. He needs some alone time to settle in. Studies have shown that cats respond to environmental challenges before they respond to social invitations.
 - Several hours later, slip into the isolation room with a small portion of food, preferably when the Resident Cat is not watching you and/or when another member of the household is playing with her. Sit quietly and talk softly. Wait for the New Cat to come to you. When he does, let him sniff you. Slowly, extend a hand. Do not try to pick him up. Remain for 30 to 45 minutes and leave with just a cheerful "see you later." Wash your hands if you've been petting the New Cat. Visit him several times a day, one hour at a time.
- The New Cat may hide under the bed, in the carrier, or otherwise appear fearful for several days. If so, continue visiting, but do not force contact. To encourage him to bond with you, let him associate you with something good. Do not leave food in the room, but bring some each visit. He may wait until after you leave to eat it. Do not proceed with the next step until the cat is comfortable with you, and is eating, drinking, and using the litter box. Remember that you are not being cruel to this cat – you are

allowing him time to adjust to his environment.

- Continue with your normal routine. The Resident Cat may hiss or growl at you because you smell like an unknown cat. Note how much time the Resident Cat spends sniffing around and sitting outside the isolation room's door. Do not proceed to Step Three until all hostile responses to the scent and doorway have ceased.

Throughout this process, be sure to spend quality time with the Resident Cat. Talk to her and tell her that although things are not the way they used be, she is still special. Play her favorite games. Groom her daily, if she enjoys that. Give her treats by hand.

Step Three: Gradual Association By Scent

Cats base much of their identification on scent; if a scent is familiar and associated with something pleasant, it is less likely to be feared. While both cats will be picking up each other's scent indirectly from day one, once the New Cat is comfortable in the isolation area, you can increase scent-recognition prior to visual contact.

Note: Unless the New Cat comes from a foster or similar situation, has been vet-checked, and is healthy, do not begin this step prior to the 10-14 day quarantine. Some diseases (e.g., ringworm, FIP) can be transmitted via contact with objects.

- If each cat sleeps on a blanket, T-shirt, or other cloth item, bring the New Cat's blanket out of the isolation area, and place the Resident Cat's into it. You may also use the carrier for this step.
- Casually place this article somewhere the Resident Cat will happen upon it. Watch carefully. The Resident Cat's response to the scent of the New Cat can be telling. Some cats will posture, hiss and even attack the item (difficulty ahead) while others will stalk and growl, run off and then return again and again (typical). Still others will approach the item curiously and sniff it with great excitement (prognosis: good). Leave the item out until the Resident Cat loses interest in it.
- Repeat this process, but put the New Cat's blanket next to the Resident Cat's food bowl, and vice versa. This will associate something pleasant – food – with the scent of the other cat.
- Move both cats' food bowls closer to the door of the isolation room – again, create a pleasant association (food) with the scent of other cat.
- Confine the Resident Cat and allow the New Cat to walk around in the house – this gives him a chance to become accustomed to the larger environment, and will leave his scent behind. (You may want to allow access only to parts of the house, to avoid losing the cat in a closet.)
- Confine the New Cat in another room for about an hour and allow the Resident Cat to roam and visit the isolation area.

Step Four: Allowing Visual Contact

Once the Resident Cat is accustomed to the New Cat's limited presence, allow them to see each other without making full contact.

- **Plan A:** Stack two tension gates that are at least 36 inches tall in the New Cat's doorway. Rigid plastic mesh baby gates are available at most children's specialty and department stores. If there is reason to believe that either cat will get over the gates, use Plan B. It is very important that the cats not meet and fight.
- **Plan B:** Jam the door to the isolation room with two hard-rubber door stops. Place them on opposite sides of the door, and leave it open about two to three inches. Make sure that neither cat can fit his head through the opening. Ensure that the door is secure and will not open further or slam shut if a cat jumps against it. The cats should be able to touch noses and bat at each other with their paws, but not make full contact or bite. Keep the door closed when you are not at home or cannot at least peripherally supervise.
- Continue to feed the cats near the open door. Move the food bowls back a few feet if necessary.

Do not proceed to the final step until the cats seem relatively calm in each other's presence. Hissing, posturing and growling should be at a bare minimum.

Step Five: The Meeting

The first introduction may last five minutes or an hour, depending upon the level of tension. If either cat is overly fearful or aggressive, separate them and try again at another time. Don't give up too quickly, but remember that the primary goal at this point is to avoid a fight.

- While the Resident Cat is occupied elsewhere, take down the gate or open the door to the New Cat's room. Let the New Cat emerge at his own pace. Allow the cats to happen upon each other. Don't interfere, but do not leave them unsupervised. Have your "distraction devices" handy (see below).
- The Resident Cat may start to stalk and chase the New Cat; the New Cat may do the same if the Resident Cat enters the isolation area. There may be hissing, growling, or posturing. If so, try to distract the cat that is more upset or aggressive by throwing a toy across his field of vision. The second the cat stops that behavior, praise him. If the hissing resumes, distract him again, and praise.
- If a fight does occur, keep your hands away. Do not attempt to handle either cat. Bang a pot with a spoon or throw a large book to the floor. These loud noises won't be associated with you, but will distract the cats and send the message that hostility generates an unpleasant noise. A second choice is to shout or clap your hands, but you don't want to make either cat afraid of you.
 - Cat fights usually sound worse than they are. Cats yowl, but if their nails have been trimmed, damage should be minimal. Some declawed cats may bite. When things have cooled down considerably, go over each of the cats' bodies carefully and check for wounds. Bites and puncture wounds may not be visible, but can become infected and abscess; continue to check for two weeks after any fight.

Unless there is obvious damage needing immediate attention, be sure to wait to examine until the cat is completely calm – pupils not dilated, tail not twitching, ears in a relaxed position. An upset cat may reflexively bite anyone or anything that comes near.

Other Tips

General rule of cat behavior: A cat is not a dog; its goal in life is not to please you. Yelling at or punishing a cat will not change its behavior, but may make the cat afraid of you. Never hit a cat or treat it roughly. To get a cat to stop doing something, give it something else to do that it likes better. To convince a cat to do or accept something new, associate it with something familiar that the cat likes (food or a toy, for example).

The introduction of the New Cat can take anywhere from several days (kitten/kitten or juvenile) to several months (adult stray/adult prima dona). Watch for signs of stress. Eating food quickly and then vomiting; or excessive grooming, sleeping and/or drinking are all signs that a cat is not happy. Spraying, mewling, hiding and indiscriminate urination and/or defecation also are associated with anxiety and stress.

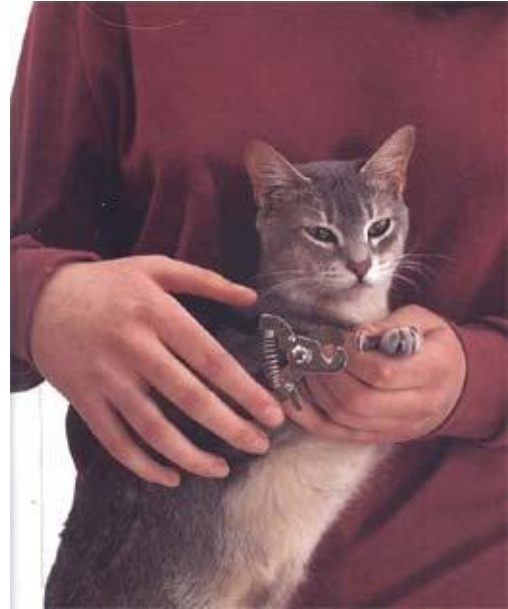
- Use play to increase a nervous cat's confidence. A "fishing pole" toy is great for this. Drag the object along with small, erratic movements, the way a mouse might move. Be sure to allow the cat to "catch the prey." During the fifth step, parallel play (two toys) is a great way to help the cats become accustomed to each other, providing a positive association as well as distracting their full attention from the other.
- Do not promote competition. Maintain two separate litter boxes, in different areas, until the cats are completely at peace. Either Resident Cats or New Cats may block doorways and deny access to a litter box. Don't be in a hurry to consolidate. If a cat can't get to his box, he will be left with no choice but to create a new toilet area. (Note the rule of thumb of one litter box per cat.)

Eventually, hostilities will decline. The two will coexist peacefully. They may even start to groom each other and share sleeping spots. Best wishes to you, you're resident cat(s), and your new friend.

Trimming Your Cat's Claws

If possible start training your cat to have her claws trimmed as a kitten. Gently stroke your cat's paws often, getting her used to having her paws held before you attempt trimming. Be sure to reward your cat with a special food treat-one that she receives only during claw trimming or some other grooming procedure-during or immediately after trimming. The best time to trim your cat's claws is when she is relaxed or sleepy. Never try to give a pedicure right after a stressful experience or an energetic round of play.

Your cat should be resting comfortably on your lap, the floor, or a table. Hold a paw in one hand and press a toe pad gently to extend the claw. Notice the pink tissue (the quick) on the inside of the claw. Avoid the quick when you trim the claw; cutting into it will cause pain and bleeding. Remove the sharp tip below the quick (away from the toe), clipping about halfway between the end of the quick and the tip of claw. If your cat becomes impatient, take a break and try again later. Even if you can clip only a claw or two a day, eventually you'll complete the task. (Because cats do little damage with their rear claws and do a good job of keeping them trim themselves-by chewing them-many cat owners never clip the rear claws. Others trim their cats' rear claws three or four times a year or have them done by their veterinarian or a professional groomer.)



Many people hold the clippers at right angles to the nail, thus cutting across the nail. This tends to make the nail more subject to splitting or fraying. It is better to hold the clippers in a vertical position--that is, up and down, so that the claw is trimmed from bottom to top instead of across the nail. This position help prevent splitting.

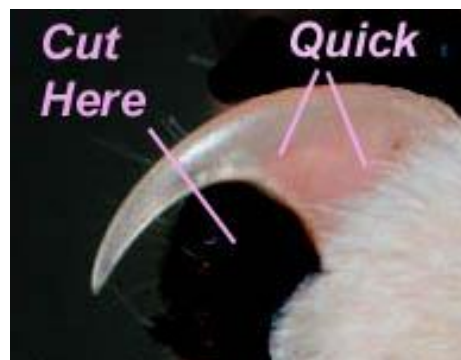


If you accidentally clip into the quick, don't panic. The claw may bleed for a moment, but it will usually stop very quickly. Soothe your cat by speaking softly to her and stroking her head. If the bleeding hasn't stopped after a minute or so, touch a styptic pencil to the claw end or pat on styptic powder to help staunch the bleeding.

How often you need to clip your cat's claws depends somewhat on how much of the tip you remove, but usually a clipping every ten to fourteen days will suffice. If your cat absolutely refuses to allow you to clip tier claws, get help from your veterinarian or a professional groomer

Gently press the cat's toe pads to reveal sharp claws in need of a trim.

*Notice the pink tissue (the **quick**) on the inside of the claw. **Avoid the quick** when you trim the claw; cutting into it will cause pain and bleeding. Remove the sharp tip below the quick (away from the toe), clipping about halfway between the end of the quick and the tip of claw.*



Special claw trimmers (two types are shown) are available from veterinarians or pet supply stores, but sharp nail clippers for humans work just as well. Keep a styptic (astringent) pencil or powder on hand in case you accidentally clip into the quick and bleeding hasn't stopped within a couple of minutes. You can order nail clippers through this link ([Order Here](#))

