

Declawing

Declawing is an irreversible surgical procedure that consists in the amputation of the third phalanx. It is a very painful process with a high risk of side effects. This operation can lead to physical, emotional, and behavioural complications. Without their front claws, cats can feel insecure. Their distress can be expressed in different ways. For example, cats may begin urinating everywhere inside the home. They can also become hostile to humans, even to you, as well as to other animals, and can be more prone to biting. Some cats develop an aversion to their litter box due to the pain they feel when scratching after the operation.

These reasons explain why many countries consider declawing illegal, as it is considered to be a barbaric procedure. Declawing literally mutilates cats.

Claws are an indispensable part of a cat's anatomy. They are essential to their balance, to their mobility, and to their survival.

Some alternatives:

- 🐾 Ask your veterinarian to show you how to cut your cat's claws. By keeping them short, you reduce potential damage to your furniture.
- 🐾 Your cat needs to sharpen its claws. Have a scratching post (cardboard or otherwise) or a carpet available for your cat. Cat condos (small staircase with landings covered in carpet or rope at different heights and with hiding places) work wonders, since cats love them and quickly make them their home and a place to sharpen their claws.
- 🐾 You can also rub some fresh catnip on the post to attract your cat's attention. Rub your cat's paws on the post, and praise your cat for doing the same on its own. If you catch your cat sharpening its claws elsewhere in the home, scold it then bring it to its scratching post and give it some positive feedback.

MAKE A DONATION!

In support of the Animal Rescue Network's mission, you can make a donation for which you can receive a tax receipt. Your contribution will help us to continue our efforts of helping abandoned and abused animals. Please send your cheque payable to **Animal Rescue Network** to the address at the bottom of this page. You can also donate online through the [CanadaHelps Website](#). *Donating online is easy and you avoid paperwork, envelopes and stamps.*



Animal Rescue Network

The largest no-kill shelter for cats in Montreal



Cat overpopulation and declawing: Facts and solutions

*Information pamphlet presented by
the Animal Rescue Network*



Animal Rescue Network

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*“You become responsible, forever,
for what you have tamed.”*

- Antoine de St-Exupéry

Overpopulation :

A scourge!

Did you know that adopting a kitten isn't always the best option? In fact, when people decide to adopt a cat, they are more often than not attracted to a kitten's charm, and then they hurry up and get one from the neighborhood pet store. However, they are not always aware that the little one will grow up, become an adult, and require care and attention. It is unfortunately these same kittens, once they've reached adulthood, that are found abandoned by the side of the road or left behind after its owner moves.

Overpopulation of stray cats on the island of Montreal is a major problem. Each year, too many people abandon their animals in empty apartments and on the streets. The number of stray cats keeps increasing. It is wrong to believe that cats left to care for themselves will be able to do so easily. In fact, having been domesticated, their instincts have deteriorated. They are exposed to diseases, to several dangers (other animals, cars, etc.), and live in difficult conditions, which make them vulnerable and considerably lowers their life expectancy.



4 years = Potential of 20,736 cats

Sterilization:

A solution!

If we consider that one female cat can be the source of 20,736 kittens over a four-year period, it is understandable to want to exercise a form of birth control. Besides avoiding the problem of cat overpopulation and the suffering that it generates, sterilizing your cat presents a number of advantages:

For male cats:

Lower risk of prostate problems and testicular cancer; less marking of territory and so less problem with the smell of urine associated with this behavior; less pronounced domination instinct and aggressiveness; less risk that they will run away.

For female cats:

Lower risk of tumors on mammary glands; lower risk of ovarian and uterine cancers; elimination of pyometritis that can occur after being in heat or after giving birth; disappearance of excessive meowing associated with being in heat.

Adopting an adult cat:

Something to consider

Another solution is to decide to give a second chance to an adult cat that is house-trained, calm, and affectionate. Shelters such as the **Animal Rescue Network** are filled with such animals that are just waiting for someone to adopt them !

For more information on how you can adopt a cat from the **Animal Rescue Network**, please consult our pamphlet titled "Adopt a new companion" or consult the "Adoption info" section of our website at

<http://animalrescuenetwork.org>

You can also contact us by calling 514 938-6215 and leaving a message on option 3 or send us an e-mail:

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