

The Animal Hospital of Gurnee, P.C.

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Post Surgical Instructions for De-Claw

Recovery period is generally between 7-10 days. The younger the cat is the more rapid the recovery time will be. Most times, kitty will spend the first night after surgery with us. Please note the following to make sure your pet's homecoming is safe and comfortable.

- **Homecoming** should be to a warm quiet room in the house away from other pets and small children. The paws will be very tender and sore for several days. Do not encourage any rough play or extra activity. Activity should be limited for at least 10 days, no jumping onto and off of furniture or other high places as it can break open the incisions causing extended healing time and possibly infection. If this occurs, call us and we'll have you bring kitty in for a doctor to evaluate and probably reclose the incision(s).
- **Litter boxes** should only contain shredded newspaper (other paper products will have sharp edges and cut open the incisions) or pellet style litter (for example: Yesterdays News or Feline Pine) as clay and clumping litters can enter the incisions and cause infection and poor healing. Avoid perfumed products! You'll be using this for the next 2-3 weeks until kitty's recovery is complete.



PELLET STYLE LITTER

- **Pain medication** should be given as directed and paws should be checked periodically for signs of infection, excessive swelling, discharge, or bleeding. Contact the veterinarian immediately if this occurs. It is not uncommon to see a small amount of bleeding for the first few days after surgery, but give us a call and update us if this is the case.
- **Antibiotics** (if prescribed) should be given as directed and finished. It would not be prescribed if the attending veterinarian didn't think it was needed.
- **Bandages** should be removed 2 days after surgery (if kitty hasn't removed them already). If you pull the tape tab at the top of the bandage off, generally, the rest of the bandage will slip off easily. If you have problems removing them yourself don't hesitate to call the office and we'll setup a time when you can bring kitty in to have them removed by one of our tech staff members.