

**Key City Veterinary Clinic**  
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### **Post-Declaw Instructions**

#### Aftercare Following Anesthesia:

- Your pet will likely be quieter and sleep more the next couple of days as he/she recovers from surgery. If he/she is still groggy when he/she gets home, avoid letting he/she use the stairs or be on slippery floors. Also, do not allow them on counters or other high places.
- Avoid giving large amounts of water. Give a small amount of water or one to two ice cubes, wait 30-45 minutes and if the animal does not vomit, more water or ice cubes can be given.
- Do not feed your pet a full meal this evening; one half to one fourth of their usual ration is adequate. Some animals may have some nausea after anesthesia and overfeeding could cause vomiting. Your pet will probably not have much of an appetite the first evening home anyway.
- Please call the office if your pet has persistent vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding, swelling, or depression. Your pet should be alert and brighter within 12 hours after a procedure.
- Keep your pet in a warm area for at least the first 24 hours home.

#### Care of Surgical Incision Site:

- Keep the pet indoors for the next 7-10 days so front feet stay dry and clean.
- Observe the front feet daily for signs of irritation or infection (redness, heat, discharge, or swelling). Call the clinic if these symptoms occur.
- Do not allow your pet to lick or chew the toes excessively! Although it is normal and desired that cats clean their feet after this surgery, if they are doing this too much they may open the incisions and cause bleeding or allow foreign material into the toes. We recommend purchasing an e-collar to prevent this if needed. If persistent licking or chewing occurs, a bandage may be needed.

#### Aftercare:

- Use shredded paper or paper pellet litter (such as *Yesterday's News* brand) in the litter box for 2 weeks after surgery. This will be more comfortable on your cat's sore feet and will prevent irritation/infection from the dust and granules in clumping or clay litter.
- Remember, some pain is expected since the declaw procedure is an amputation of part of the toe, and some older and heavier animals take longer to recover than small young kittens. Pain medicine is available for cats.

Recheck appointment is needed in 7-10 days, sooner if a problem arises.

Please call the clinic if you have any problems or questions about your pet's condition or surgery.