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Instructions for Feline Declaw

1. Please do not allow your pet to eat for 6 hours before surgery. This ensures they have an empty stomach for surgery and prevents vomiting while under anesthesia.
2. Onychectomy (declaw) involves removing the toenail and the germinal tissue that produces the toenail. This extends to the back margin of the last digit. The skin is then sealed over the tip of the toe after removal of this tissue. The skin may be sealed with glue, absorbable or dissolvable stitches, or a combination of both. The paw is then wrapped for additional hemostasis (clotting).
3. Keep your pet confined to a pet carrier or crate for 6 hours after surgery. Then you may release your pet into a small room for the evening (laundry room, small bedroom, etc.) Leave the bandages on until the following morning.
4. If bleeding occurs the afternoon of surgery or that evening, place the pet back inside the carrier or crate and call Dr. Herrmann. This is not a life threatening emergency, but Dr. Herrmann would like to talk with you and make a plan for you.
5. The bandages may be removed the following morning by simply pulling on the tip of the bandage. They usually slide off with ease. If the bandage falls off early, just leave it off as long the paw is not bleeding.
6. Please use Yesterdays News (pelleted recycled newspaper) or shredded newspaper in place of cat litter for 5 days after surgery. Normal Kitty Litter granules can get into the declaw incisions and cause pain.
7. If your pet is not walking normally by 5 days after surgery, please call Dr. Herrmann
8. If you notice excessive drainage or swelling please call Dr. Herrmann. The incision may be infected and need antibiotics.