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DECLAW RELEASE FORM

Declawing is a common surgical procedure performed in veterinary medicine. It involves the amputation of the third phalange (claw). The procedure is an option for cats that are destroying furniture or carpet or for cats in households with people whose skin is easily traumatized. Cats that go outdoors should never be declawed.

Cats that claw the furniture are not being spiteful. It is a normal behavior to sharpen their claws. Cats can be trained to sharpen their claws on specific items that are designed for this purpose. There are also nail caps called Soft Paws that are glued onto the cat's claw. This prevents the claws from doing any damage. These do need to be replaced as the claws will still grow and push the nail cap off. These options should be considered before deciding to have your cat declawed.

Declawing is a surgical procedure and complications can occur. The most common complications are infection of the surgical site, swelling, bleeding and pain. Pain is controlled with pain injections before and after surgery and with pain patches and/or oral medications at home. Antibiotics and dust free litter are dispensed to help prevent infections. Serious complications that can occur are vasculitis and thrombosis. This results in a loss of blood supply to the paw which could result in the loss of portions of the paw or the entire paw itself. These complications are rare (less than 1%) but serious.

I have read the above release form and understand the risks and complications associated with declawing.

I have been advised of the alternative procedures available for declawing.

Pet's Name: _____

Owner/Agent Name: _____

Owner/Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____