

Feline Declaws

Included in our surgical packages, we perform three additional procedures. These are designed to increase the level of safety and care for your cat.

- We first draw a blood sample and perform Feline Leukemia, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, and Feline Heartworm tests. If these are negative, we proceed. If any of these is positive we will call you to discuss how to proceed.
- The next tests we perform are a CBC (complete blood count) and 14 blood biochemistries. These are done right in the clinic and we will have the results before we begin surgery. The biochemistries will give us information about your cat's liver and kidneys, total blood protein, electrolyte levels, and a blood glucose level to check for possible diabetes. The CBC will tell us if there are any signs of infection, anemia or low platelet numbers that could cause prolonged bleeding times. If these are all normal, we proceed to surgery, and we will then have healthy baseline blood levels for your pet. If any of these tests are significantly abnormal, we will call you to discuss how to proceed.
- Additionally, we will be administering subcutaneous fluids during the surgery. This is helpful in maintaining fluid balance and preventing dehydration.

We typically recommend surgery at 6 months of age. Some clients would prefer to have the surgery done sooner. We can perform the surgery as early as 3-4 months of age. If you have any questions, feel free to discuss them with the doctor.

Your cat will be able to go home **after noon** the day after surgery. This allows sufficient time to recover before going home to a busy household and allows us time to remove the bandages on the paws, monitor for any bleeding, and administer their first dose of pain reliever. We will be sending home pain reliever medications that you will administer over the next two days. A technician will go over the instructions and answer any questions you may have.

Feeding restrictions the morning of surgery: those under 6 months of age may eat half of their normal meal; cats over 6 months of age should not be fed after 10pm the night before surgery. Water is okay until admission time.