



WHY WE DON'T DECLAW

As of January 2021, Grand Avenue Veterinary Clinic will no longer schedule or perform declaw procedures.

Reasoning for Our Discontinuation

The American Association of Feline Practitioners announced in late 2020 that all member clinics are no longer permitted to perform elective onychectomy (declaws) in cats. While GAVC is not an AAFP member, our doctors discussed the progression of the standards of care in our profession and opted to follow along with these recommendations. It is our duty to uphold the standards of care in our profession. As leading feline specialty groups help lead in determining what those standards are, it is clear that the profession is now accepting a no-tolerance approach to this procedure. All of the doctors at GAVC are in agreement towards this approach.

Explanation Why Our Profession Opposes Declawing

- Feline declawing is an ethically controversial procedure.
- Declawing is NOT a medically necessary procedure for cats in most instances.
- Scratching is a normal feline behavior--both inherited and learned.
- Declawing is an amputation of the third phalanx (P3).
- Appropriate management of scratching behaviors includes:
 - ◇ providing cats with scratching posts/pads
 - ◇ regularly trimming the claws to prevent injury or damage to household items
 - ◇ considering temporary synthetic nail caps
 - ◇ using synthetic facial pheromone sprays and/or diffusers to help relieve anxiety or stress
 - ◇ providing appropriate feline environmental enrichment
- There are inherent risks and complications with declawing that increase with age such as acute pain, infection, nerve trauma, as well as long term complications like lameness, behavioral problems, and chronic neuropathic pain.

