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**Post-Declaw Home Care Instructions**

**Declaw**

A surgical procedure under anesthesia in which each nail and associated bone (to prevent nail re-growth) is removed from the feet with a surgical laser.

**What you need to know while your pet is healing from surgery:**

* **Do not use normal cat litter for the next 10 days** We will supply you with Yesterday’s News cat litter to use while your pet heals. This reduces the opportunity for infection to occur.
* **Monitor paws** Monitor surgical sites on each toe for swelling and oozing of blood or pus. Contact us if you notice any of these signs or if your cat refused to bear weight on paws.
* **Incision Licking** If your cat is licking it paws in excess, it is important to obtain an e-collar from Frankfort Veterinary Clinic to prevent this from occurring. Excessive licking of the incision causes irritation, swelling, and can lead to infection.
* **Pain Medications** If Dr. Nieves prescribed pain medications, give as directed. **Do not** give over the counter pain medications such as Ibuprofen and Tylenol. These can be toxic!
* **Recovery Time** Expect that it could take about 2-6 weeks before your cat walks completely normally. The younger the cat, the quicker the recovery.
* **Sutures** There are **no sutures to remove.** The surgical sites were closed with a surgical adhesive.
* **Food/Water** Offer normal amount at home, but be aware that appetite may not return to normal for a day or two after surgery.
* **Keep feet dry for 10 days** Do not wash the feet or apply anything topical without asking us first. Excessive moisture around the surgical site provides the perfect environment for an infection to occur.

**Call Frankfort Veterinary Clinic if you notice any of the following:**

* Vomiting or diarrhea
* Refusal to eat, greater than 24-48 hours post surgery
* Severe pain
* Bleeding or pus from incision site

Continuous licking or biting at incision site