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Adopt declawed cats near me

I love my cat, but I hate what she's doing to the upholstery. Is it awful for me to think about having her declawed? A.M., Haskell, New Jersey The subject of declawing gets cat lovers pretty, well, animated. It's a divisive issue because felines fall into two categories. One type never destroys anything, never climbs the curtains, never scratches a diabetic grandma's arm — and this cat's fortunate owners can't understand why any animal should ever undergo such a barbaric procedure. The other type of cat loves to sharpen her claws on sofas, trousers, bare legs, walnut tabletops. Anything these kitties can reach, they scratch. If your cat is of the latter variety, take heart. Declawing is not a matter to take lightly — it's really a last resort — but some would argue that it may extend Fluffy's life. On average, indoor cats live twice as long as outdoor ones. So if your choice is between declawing or eviction to the yard, I'd recommend the former. Most cats walk normally within a day or two of the surgery: The tiny incisions heal very quickly, especially with kittens, who put less weight on their feet. I've also declawed chubby, mature felines without complications. But because the operation leaves cats without a powerful defense tool, they should be kept indoors. If yours does sneak outside, though, don't panic. She can still run from danger and climb trees with incredible speed. Dr. Rob Sharp would love to answer your pet questions. Drop him a line at countryliving@hearst.com. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Courtesy of Animal Welfare League NSW Every animal deserves a good home, but sadly, some animals in shelters are constantly overlooked and wait a long time to be adopted by a loving family. Champas the cat has been waiting even longer than most. Courtesy of Animal Welfare League NSW The five-year-old cat has been at Animal Welfare League New South Wales for 433 days, according to Buzzfeed. When Champas arrived at the shelter in December 2015, he was frightened, and therefore didn't interact with people often. While other animals came to the shelter and were adopted soon after, it seemed like Champas was always missing his chance. To help Champas get used to people, employees moved him into the shelter's reception area, where he now greets visitors when they arrive. The shelter is campaigning to find Champas a loving home before Valentine's Day, and they've even reduced the price of adult cat adoptions to \$50 through February 12. Courtesy of Animal Welfare League NSW Courtesy of Animal Welfare League NSW Champas is "lively and over-excitable" and loves to put for attention, according to the shelter. He loves to play, albeit a little roughly, so the shelter is looking for a more experienced "cat person" family with kids who are older. "He's not the kind of cat that any family could take, but we know for sure there is someone out there who he would make so happy—we just need to find them," a shelter spokesperson told Buzzfeed. "Champas has already spent one Valentine's Day in the shelter and we would hate for him to have to be here for another one." You can read more about adopting or donating to help Champas on the AWLNSW website. Courtesy of Animal Welfare League NSW (h/t Buzzfeed) Follow Country Living on Facebook. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io Senior cats naturally have less energy than kittens or younger cats and that may be just what you're looking for in a feline companion. While kittens can be more demanding of your time and attention, waking you up in the middle of the night to play or eat, or generally getting into mischief, an older cat will be content to nap, cuddle and roam your home independently. 2. Senior Cats' Personalities Have Already Developed The shelter will be able to tell you whether a senior cat is shy or outgoing, laid-back or more energetic, vocal or quiet. Their observations tend to stick, even after the adoption papers are signed and you bring your new cat home. When you adopt an older cat, you can be confident that what you see at the rescue is what you'll get once you arrive home, because senior cats' personalities are already relatively established. In addition to being calmer, older cats are wiser and have more experience. That means they're less likely to upset or annoy cats you already have in your family. Kittens, with their high energy levels and tendency to play with anything — and any creature — they come in contact with, can sometimes aggravate other pets in the household, causing stress and upsetting the balance of order and routine in your home. Senior cats are usually better socialized around other cats and can more easily settle into a house that already has a cat or two — but be sure to ask the shelter staff how the older cat interacts with the other cats in the shelter, as some simply don't get along with other cats. Many shelters allow pet owners to bring their resident cat in for an introduction to the adoptable cat before taking them home. 4. Senior Cats May Be Better with Kids Older cats usually tolerate petting better, are less likely to nip or scratch and are larger — and therefore harder and sturdier — than kittens. With their fragile bones and small stature, kittens can easily be injured if a child squeezes them too tightly, accidentally steps on them or drops them. Kittens are also teething, meaning that they're more likely to nip small hands. If your household includes children under the age of five, an older cat may be a better fit for your family. Because senior cats can go unadopted for extended lengths of time, shelters and rescues sometimes reduce the adoption fees of older cats. They may even allow you to adopt them for free to help them find their forever homes. On top of all these reasons, older rescue cats simply need someone to adopt and love them, just like any other cat. If you take a chance and welcome them into your home, they'll respond with warmth, love and plenty of purrs. Shelter staff and volunteers spend ample time learning about their adoptable cats' unique personalities and needs. By the time a cat is ready for adoption, the staff has interacted with them and gotten to know their temperament and daily habits through playtime, mealtime, downtime, and health and well-being checks. In short, the staff is the best resource for finding out more about an adoptable cat's personality. Questions to ask about a cat's personality: Is the cat sociable or solitary? Do they enjoy being around people, or are they more aloof? Does the cat like to be handled or picked up? What types of activities does the cat enjoy? Do they like to play, or do they prefer to snuggle? Would the cat get along with other pets? Is the cat friendly around children? Does the cat have notable behavioral quirks or preferences? What to Ask About Your Cat's Health History before Adopting Shelter professionals understand the need to immediately identify, treat or help prevent fleas, ticks, heartworms, intestinal worms and ear mites. After all, many shelter animals bring unwanted guests along at check-in, and it doesn't take much for a few tiny pests to become a large, shelter-wide problem. The staff ensures adoptable cats have received effective treatment or prevention products to help reduce the risk of various parasites. They also perform a wellness exam and document any past or current medical conditions. These checkups, vaccinations and preventives help prepare an adoptable cat for your home. Questions to ask about a cat's health history: How did the cat come to the shelter? How old is the cat? Did the cat have any health issues when they arrived at the shelter? Does the cat have any current medical conditions? Do they take medication or need a special diet? Does the shelter recommend or work with a specific veterinary office? When will the cat need additional vaccinations or parasite prevention products? By asking the shelter staff lots of questions and learning more about their cats, you're paving the way for a lifelong bond with a cat that's just the right fit. Get Your Free Kitten Care Guide! There's a lot you need to know to make things go smoothly with your new friend. Most of the United States is behind the times and the rest of the civilized world in its attitude toward declawing cats. Several major cities in California and Denver, Colorado, and most recently New York have banned it and are showing a growing American trend away from the practice. Pet owners who do it, use it as a solution for destructive scratching. It is a controversial topic and many organizations suggest using more humane alternatives for preventing cats from scratching you, your furniture, and your home. Declawing has been illegal in England for several years. Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Wales, Finland, and Brazil are among the many countries that consider declawing illegal or inhumane and only allow it under extreme circumstances. In the U.S., savvy cat aficionados, feline organizations, and veterinarians are mounting protests against declawing, calling it inhumane and unnecessary. The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights call it a practice of a cat being taken as "an emotional hostage." World-renowned animal behaviorist and professor of veterinary medicine at Tufts University Dr. Nicholas Dodman, the author of "The Cat Who Cried for Help," says about declawing: "The inhumanity of the procedure is clearly demonstrated by the nature of cats' recovery from anesthesia following the surgery. Unlike routine recoveries, including recovery from neutering surgeries which are fairly peaceful, Declawing fits the dictionary definition of mutilation to a tee. Words such as deform, disfigure, disjoint and dismember all apply to this surgery. Partial digital amputation is so horrible that it has been employed for torture of prisoners of war, and in veterinary medicine, the clinical procedure serves as a model of severe pain for testing the efficacy of analgesic drugs. Even though analgesic drugs can be used postoperatively, they rarely are, and their effects are incomplete and transient anyway, so sooner or later the pain will emerge." It is rare to see a veterinarian cite a common medical reason for declawing, except to repair a badly done initial job in which the claws have grown back and are causing crippling pain to the cat. The closest you might come to a medical reason is to prevent the owner from having the cat euthanized because of destructive scratching. Some veterinarians will reluctantly perform this procedure for that reason. A cat's claws are vital to its physiology, providing protection, balance, and mobility. Cats who find themselves outdoors without claws are virtually defenseless. Cats need their claws to scratch for three primary reasons: Exercise: A cat will select a surface where it can hook its claws, then pull against the resistance. This is a form of isotonic exercise, which both strengthens the muscles and provides suppleness to muscles and joints. Marking Territory: Scent glands located on the cats' feet effectively mark the area as its territory. You will notice this behavior frequently with indoor-outdoor cats that will mark trees by scratching. Anger Management: Although there is no scientific evidence for this, there tends to be an increase in scratching behavior when a cat is annoyed or upset. Declawing is not merely the trimming of the claws. It is the surgical removal of the claws which are closely adhered to the bone. In order to remove the claw and prevent its regrowth (which sometimes results from incomplete removal), the entire first joint of each of the cat's toe is amputated. This procedure is often likened to amputation of all a human's fingers to the first knuckle. Although, it is not an apples-to-apples comparison, since cats are digitigrade, which means it walks on its "fingers and toes." Humans do not. Aside from the initial physical pain for days or weeks after surgery, other short-term effects of declawing can also lead to long-term problems, both physiological and behavioral. A declawed cat's toe stubs will be severely painful after the surgery, and phantom limb pain may be a lifelong legacy. Some litter box substrates are very painful to the cat's tender paws, and the cat may avoid the litter box entirely because of its association with pain. A declawed cat will need a softer substrate such as one of the paper-based litters. A cat's claws are its primary defense against other cats, dogs, or humans that might be harming it. Lacking claws, a cat may turn to biting, either in defense or as a warning to humans who cannot read its body language. Other cats may choose "flight" instead of "fight" and become withdrawn and depressed. Since a cat walks on its toes, pain in the toes can cause changes to its normal gait. This change in gait can eventually result in stiffness and pain in the cat's legs, hips, and spine. If you have ever experienced prolonged foot pain, while continuously walking around on your feet, then you can understand this description. Many cat owners who have had cats declawed in the past now say they would never consider it again, knowing what they now know and remembering the aftermath of the surgery. There are other alternatives, so they never need to subject their other cats to such pain. These options include: Nail Trimming: Cats cannot do serious damage to furniture, drapery, and rugs with blunt nails. Trimming is pretty simple. Start doing it regularly when your cat is a kitten if you can. A cat can grow accustomed to it. If you wait until your cat is sleepy and quiet, you can take it one nail at a time over a period of several days, your cat will soon find out it's not to be feared. Simply lightly squeeze the cat's toe to extend the nail tip and snip the tip. You can buy inexpensive clippers for this purpose at any pet store. Be careful not to cut into the dark part on the underside of the tip—this is the quick which will cause bleeding. If you are hesitant about doing this yourself, ask your veterinarian to teach you. Scratching Posts: Invest in or build your own scratching posts. Sisal-covered posts are highly favored by many cats. Most cats can be easily trained to use the post for scratching instead of your furniture. You can build your own, too. Do not scrimp on the number of posts. One of the most popular surfaces is cardboard, and inexpensive cardboard scratching posts are readily available. If one post does not work, then get a second one and experiment with its location in the house. Offer your kitty a variety of surfaces and elevations, and you will soon find out its favorite spots. Soft Paws: Soft Paws were developed by a veterinarian, and are vinyl nail caps which adhere over a cat's claws. They look like press-on nails. They come in clear or colors, which can look quite fancy, and also are easy to locate if one should come off. The caps grow out with the natural growth of your cat's nails and are said to last four to six weeks, on average. Feliway: To curb destructive scratching, you might want to try Feliway. It is a cat-friendly pheromone which mimics the scent of cats' facial glands. It has been found to be useful in combating a cat's territorial urine marking and some animal behaviorists claim it works to stop territorial scratching. If you suspect your pet is sick, call your vet immediately. For health-related questions, always consult your veterinarian, as they have examined your pet, know the pet's health history, and can make the best recommendations for your pet.

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