

TOWN CATS ADOPTION FAIRS

Evenings Mon – Fri at our shelter
in Morgan Hill.

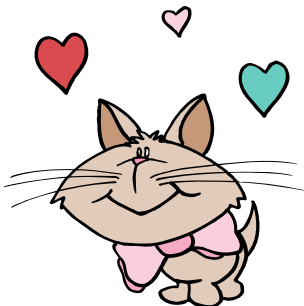
Email towncats@garlic.com
for an appointment.

Every Saturday and Sunday
from 12:30pm – 5pm
at the Pet Food Express
1787 E. Capitol Expwy., San Jose
in the Silver Creek Plaza Shopping
Center right off Hwy. 101

7 Days a Week at:
Butchies, Santa Clara
Pets Delight, Los Altos
PetSMART, Gilroy

Saturdays Only at:
Pet Food Express,
Lawrence – Stevens Creek
Petco, Sunnyvale
Petco, Santa Clara
Petco, Blossom Hill

See: www.towncats.org for
dates/times/maps



Founded in 1997, Town Cats is a 501(c)3 certified nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of homeless cats and kittens residing in the Santa Clara County. We use humane, no-kill animal control methods, including TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) for ferals, and place all adoptable friendly cats and kittens in loving, permanent homes. We place 1000 cats a year and spray/neuter about 500 feral cats a year.

Although Town Cats takes cats out of many municipal shelters before they are euthanized in order to help find them homes, we receive no government funding and are not affiliated with any government agency. We rely solely on private donations to care for the cats and kittens we help.

**You can make a difference today
by sending a monetary donation
to help support our efforts.**

Town Cats

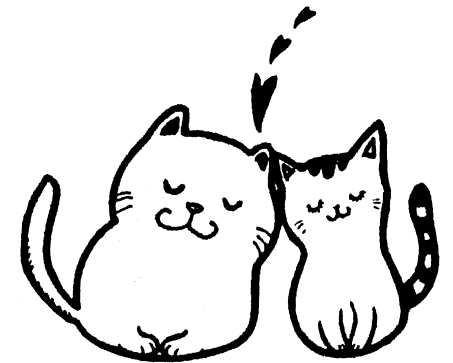
P.O. Box 1828
Morgan Hill, CA 95038-1828
Phone: 408-779-5761

Web Site: www.towncats.org
E-mail: towncats@garlic.com

*Town Cats is a nonprofit 501(c)3
organization. Donations are tax
deductible and greatly appreciated.*

Town Cats

You Cannot Declaw with Love



This pamphlet explains
the cruelty, both physical
and psychological, of
declawing and gives
workable, humane
alternatives.

www.towncats.org

FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR CAT AND YOU – DON'T HAVE YOUR CAT DECLAWED

Declawing may protect your furniture, but it does little to protect your cat. Here is a brief description of the typical procedure.

1. Cat is given general anesthesia.
2. Fur around the feet is clipped.
3. Tourniquet is placed around the leg.
4. Nails are rinsed in alcohol.
5. Amputation of the nail is accomplished with a guillotine nail cutter which cuts across the first joint and may also involve the paw pad.
6. The toes are bandaged tightly to prevent hemorrhage. The bandage is removed 2-3 days after the operation.
7. There is an alternative procedure in which the nail is removed completely and the skin sutured over. This is not a common procedure.



Besides the physical mutilation, consider what this operation may do to your cat's personality and emotions. Should you ever be forced to surrender your cat, in her new environment she will have no way to defend herself, and may constantly growl and bite at anyone who comes near. Your once sweet cat may now require constant caging. You assume tremendous responsibility when you deprive your cat of her defenses. From that moment on, you are held responsible should she slip out of an open door. You are held responsible should she be attacked by dogs with no possible escape up a tree and no possible way to defend herself.

***Is it worth it? Really worth it?
Think about it...please!***

Why does a cat need claws?

A cat's natural instinct to scratch serves both physical and psychological needs. It exercises foot muscles and helps remove the outer layer of nail that is periodically shed; the rhythmic action also provides psychological comfort, and the contraction of the nails reassures the cat of self-defense, if needed.

The surgical removal of a cat's claws inflicts great physical suffering on the cat. Also, the psychological adjustment is very difficult and many declawed cats become biters. The number of declawed cats turned in to animal shelters as unwanted pets attests to the fact that cat guardians have great difficulty rehabilitating their declawed cats.

The strong ligaments and tendons which give power to extend and retract their claws is unique to cats. Without this, your cat cannot grasp, hold, or establish footing for walking, running, springing, climbing or stretching. When the end digit, including the claw, is removed, the sensory and motor nerves are cut, damaged, or destroyed. They do not repair themselves or grow back for many months, if ever. There follows a wooden lack of feeling, then a tingling sensation during the long convalescence. Your cat must walk on the stub end of the second digit.

Since cats have keener senses than humans, they suffer even more than humans! Many pain-killing drugs including aspirin do not agree with cats and can cause illness or death. Anyone who has undergone bone surgery will appreciate the problems that can be created by the inability to medicate for pain. There are even instances of claws growing back, but not in the normal way. Rather, they grow up through the top of the paw, creating a bloody and raw sore.

The sharp claws that can be whipped out for busi-ness or tucked neatly away are fanciest of all! This elastic tendon holds the claw in its own sheath. The claw is flat on each side so it will better slide in. When the cat pulls his claw down with the use of the big tendon that lies along the under part of the toe, the ligament stretches like a fresh rubber band. It is hooked at the end for hanging on! Cats like to keep their claws sharp and clean by working on the scratching posts you should provide.



Humane solutions for Cat vs. Sofa

- When kitty is old enough and begins investigating her surroundings, a scratching post should be the first thing she encounters! If kitty makes an attempt to scratch furniture, gently pull her off and place her front paws on the scratching post. Dusting the post with catnip will encourage kitty. Twine wrapping, toys and treats on the post also encourage kitty to enjoy spending time on her post. Be sure to place the post in an easily accessible spot so its use becomes habitual.
- Purchase a pair of kitty nail clippers and get your cat used to having his nails clipped while he is young. Gently press each front paw between your thumb and index finger to distend each nail. Clip only the sharp edge, NEVER down to the pink vein (if you've ever done this to yourself, you know how much it hurts!). Your groomer or vet can show you how if you're nervous.
- Keep a child's squirt gun filled with water handy to startle kitty with a squirt on the back if she scratches where she's not supposed to.
- Cover chair legs and sofa arms with aluminum foil temporarily to discourage the idea that they're "good" places to scratch.