



## Why cats have claws...

- Claws help provide balance and agility when a cat jumps and walks.
- Claws help cats grip and enjoy stretches that tone their backs and shoulders.
- Without claws, a cat can feel defenseless and can be more prone to biting.
- Cats scratch to release happiness or frustration...which is why your cat may joyfully scratch the scratching post when you come home!
- Declawing is a painful procedure that removes part of a cat's toes, cutting bones and nerves.
- Declawing frequently causes an aversion to kitty litter...which can lead to inappropriate soiling.
- Animal Friends and the ASPCA discourage declawing, and it is illegal in many countries where declawing is considered inhumane.

## ...and how to live with them.

- First, give your cat a pleasurable and approved surface to scratch.
- Cardboard, carpet, rope or fabric scratchers are available. You can find a scratching surface that your cat will like more than your sofa!
- Trimming a cat's claws every few weeks can curb damage from scratching. Make trimming a pleasurable activity for your cat by using treats as a reward.
- Professional groomers will also trim your cat's claws.

Visit [www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org](http://www.ThinkingOutsideTheCage.org) to learn more!