

Alternatives to Declaws

- 1.) [Soft Claws](#) or [Purdy Paws](#) nail caps (Check for them on [Chewy.com](#) and [Amazon.com](#), too!)



- 2.) Provide a good [scratching post](#)

- **Height.** The post needs to be tall enough for your cat to stretch and extend in order to get a full and satisfying scratch. The picture to the right shows a good example of a cat getting a "full and satisfying" stretch.
- **Stability.** The post must be stable. If it wobbles, your cat won't like it, and if it topples over your cat won't want to go near it again. Watch a cat scratch — they hunker down and scratch and pull with such vigor that they need a stable surface to suit their scratching needs.
- **Material.** The best material for cat scratching posts is sisal fabric. Not sisal rope, but sisal fabric. This woven material provides great texture for shredding — which cats love to do when scratching, and it feels good on their paws. When a cat scratches the sisal material, they can drag their claws down this satisfying material over and over in a continuous motion. In contrast, sisal rope creates an interrupted scratch — scratch, bump, scratch, bump, scratch, bump. Not very satisfying.



- 3.) Double-sided tape, such as [Pioneer Pet Sticky Paws on a Roll Cat Deterrent](#) is sticky on both sides. Simply apply it to the objects you would prefer your cat not to scratch on, and their natural aversion to stickiness will put an end to the offending behavior. The tape works as an aversion tool, but you still need to provide a place for kitty to scratch — such as a scratching post.



- 4.) [Feliway](#) is a synthetic analogue of the feline facial pheromone — sounds confusing, but it is really quite simple. Have you seen cats rubbing their cheeks on objects? What they are doing is depositing some of this facial pheromone on the object and marking it as theirs. This feline facial pheromone can also be thought of as a feel good pheromone. Meaning cats sense this pheromone and it has a calming effect.

Cats are territorial by nature, and like to delineate their territorial boundaries. Scratching is one of the ways cats mark their territory. Not only does scratching provide a visual marking of the territory (the shredded material) but also, cats have scent glands on the bottom of their paw pads which deposit a scent discernible only by other cats. Spraying Feliway on objects you do not want your cat to scratch effectively deposits this feel good pheromone so your cat doesn't feel the need to scratch the object. You will still need to provide a scratching post so there is a place for your cat to scratch. Feliway also has [Feliway Feliscratch Scratching Attractant](#), a product specifically made to help redirect your cats scratching.



- 5.) [Sentry HC Good Behavior Pheromone Cat Calming Collar](#) has the same pheromone technology as Feliway, listed above.

