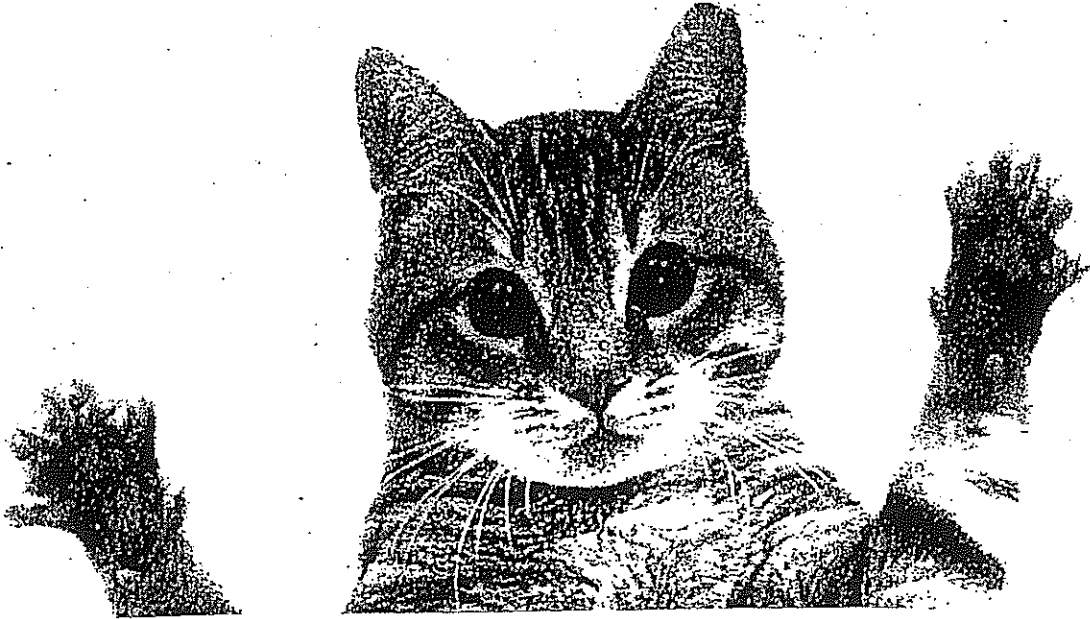



MEOWCH!



A WAYSHOWING SLIDE SHOW ABOUT:

- THE UNIQUE DEXTERITY & COUNTLESS INTEGRAL USES OF FELINE PAWS & CLAWS
- THE ASTONISHING CRUELTY OF THE WIDESPREAD, PREMEDITATED MUTILATION/ CRIPPLING OF HEALTHY LIMBS OF CATS (AND SOME OTHER ANIMALS) INFLECTED BY VETERINARIANS ET AL. 
- SIMPLE BASICS OF *HUMANE* CARE OF CATS



.....
This cruelty has become heavily marketed & inflicted
in North America (and some other places).
.....

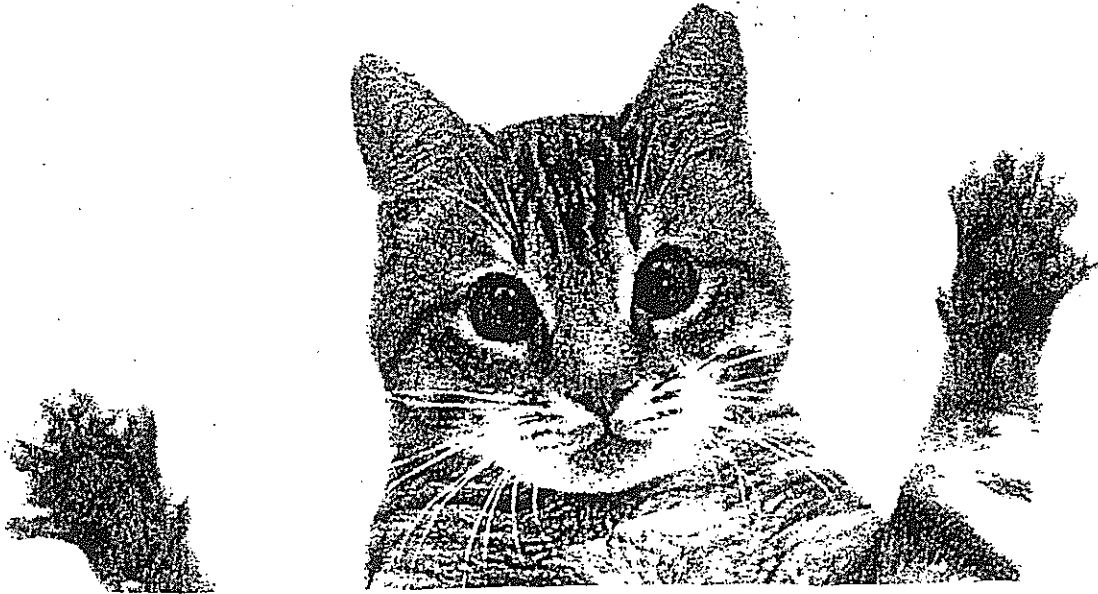
Length: 32 pages



Prepared by
Harriet E. Baker, The Cat Catalyst, Inc.
E-Mail: harriet_baker@yahoo.com

FELINE DEXTERITY AND INGENUITY

Paws have so many important functions in the life of a cat.



The front paws of a cat are delicate sensory organs, organs of locomotion, and dexterous tools that perform countless tasks.

Cats walk on their toes,
like ballet dancers.

A cat uses healthy paws and claws to grasp, groom, dig and rake litter material/earth, walk, balance, mark territory, defend itself and others (kittens, et al.), climb, play, knead, communicate, and perform countless ongoing routine tasks of living.



Cats have a dominant forepaw and hind paw, usually the left, just as humans have a dominant hand and foot, usually the right.

Compliments of Harriet Baker, E-Mail: harriet_baker@yahoo.com.



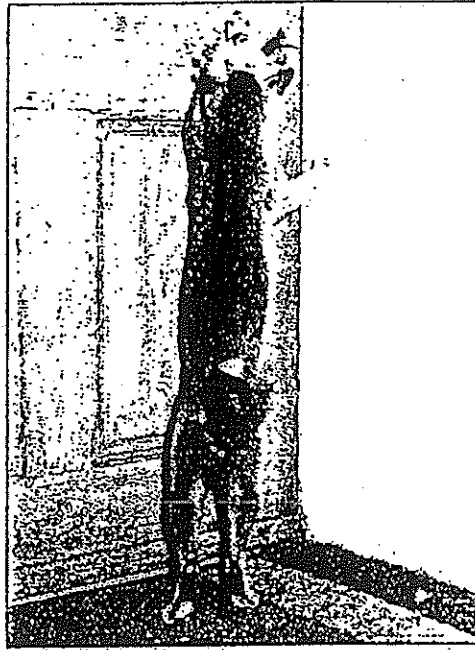
CATS

AMAZING FACTS

"Almost prehensile in their ability to grab, cuff, tap, hold, and snatch, a cat's front paws possess a versatility unique to felines."
See: Wild Cats of the World by Barbara Sleeper, Crown Publishers, Inc., NY, 1995.

The DNA of the cat is closest to that of man of any animal other than the primates. The same part of the feline and human brain correspond to emotion. The brain-body ratio is the same for man and cat. See: "The Human-Cat Connection," and "Cats: Nature's Masterwork," National Geographic, June, 1997.

FELINE DEXTERITY AND INGENUITY

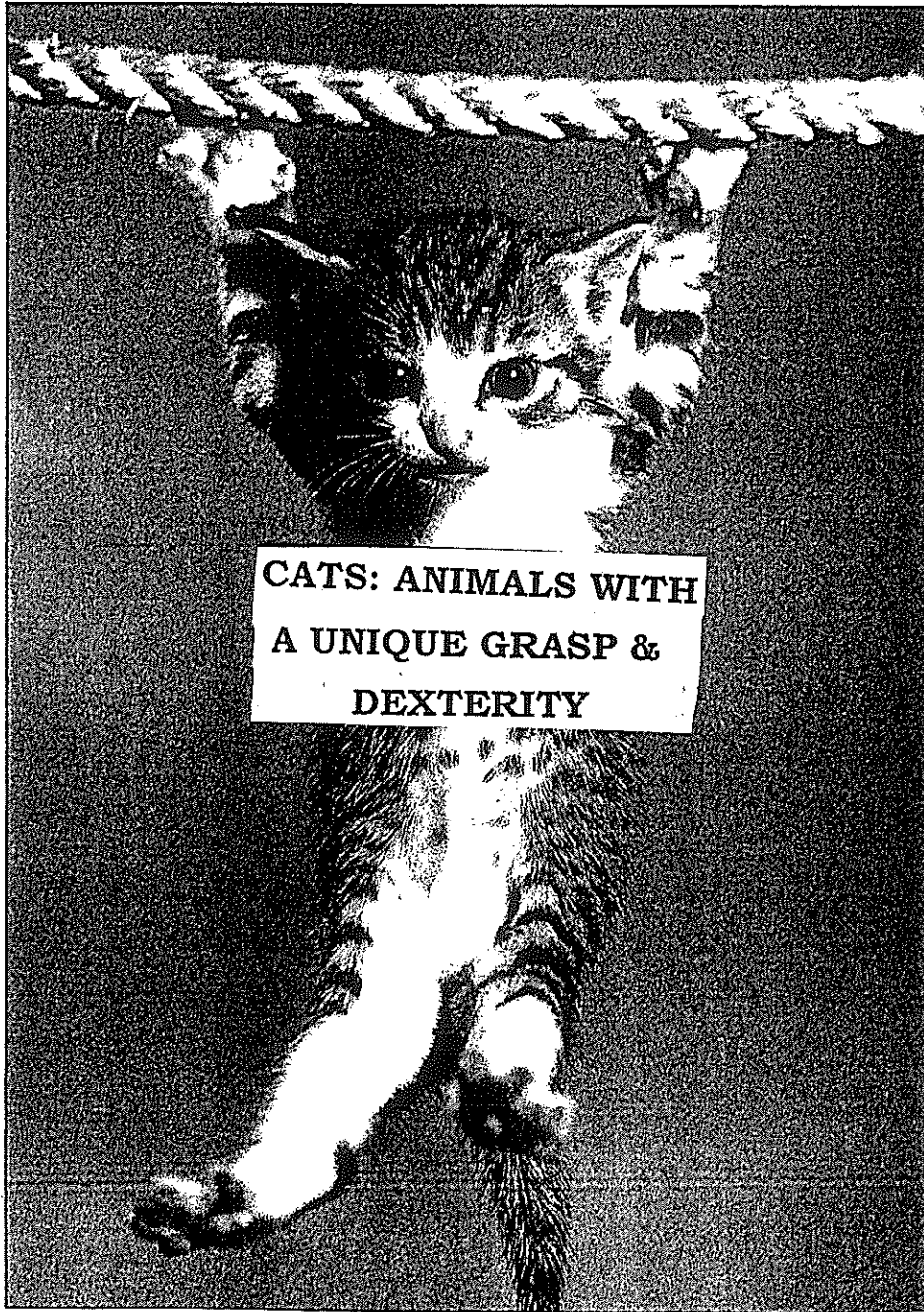


A clever cat can learn to open doors, through careful study of human behavior. If the handle is too high or requires a two-handed or strong turn, the cat may pounce on it and make a successful entry!

(From You & Your Cat—A Complete Guide to the Health, Care & Behavior of Cats by David Taylor, Alfred A. Knopf, NY, 1997)

A cat at the Vatican independently routinely opened the door to the kitchen at mealtimes by reaching up and turning the doorknob! See the book, Cat Shots, published by the National Geographic Society in 1998.

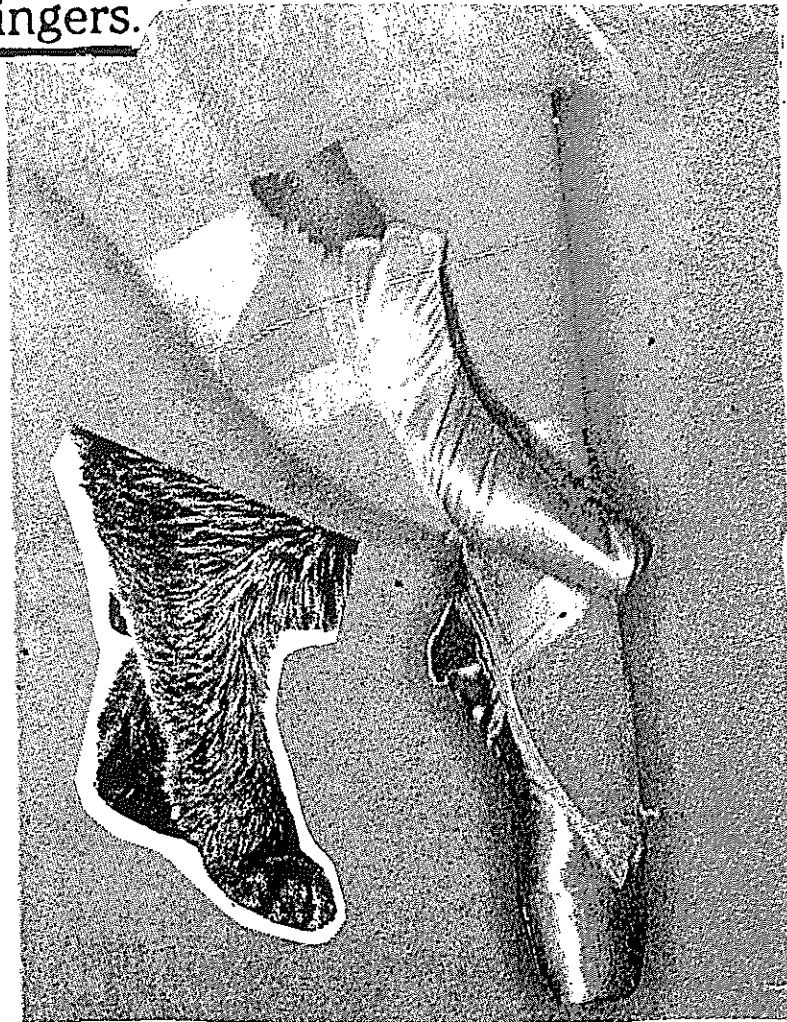
**WALES A cat clung to the roof of a Ford Escort driven by staff nurse, Adria Bryan, on her four-mile ride to work in Rhyl, North Wales. Bryan told the Sun: "I must have been doing 60. Joe clung on for dear life with his claws to the groove at the top of the rear door. It's unbelievable."
(Reported on website: Ananova.com, and in Metro, 5/24/04)**



The word, *cat*, in Greek, Latin, Russian, Arabic, German, and French has been traced to the Indo-European root word, *ghad*, which means *to grasp or catch*. Grasping and catching are integral to the essence of being a cat.

CATS WALK ON THE ENDS OF THEIR TOES/FINGERS LIKE BALLET DANCERS

Unlike some carnivores, which possess “plantigrade” feet, cats have “digitigrade” feet. In plantigrade animals the body’s weight is borne by a series of bones (the equivalent of the human finger and hand bones) placed flat on the ground. But the digitigrade cat walks on the ends of its fingers.



From *You & Your Cat—A Complete Guide to the Health, Care & Behavior of Cats* by David Taylor, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1997.

ALL CATS ARE SO MUCH ALIKE!

The puma is the largest little cat, and the rusty-spotted cat is the smallest. A puma can be nine feet long, including the tail. A rusty-spotted cat may be only two feet long and weigh only three pounds when fully grown. Rusty-spotted cats are so small that four of them together would weigh only as much as one average house cat.



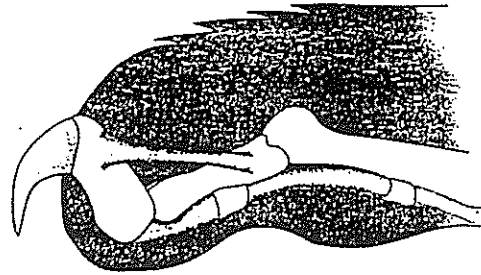
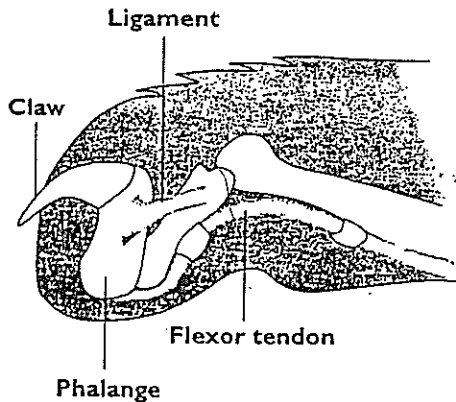
Cats walk on their toes
like ballet dancers.

RUSTY-SPOTTED CAT

The front paws of a cat are delicate sensory organs, organs of locomotion, and dexterous tools that perform countless tasks.

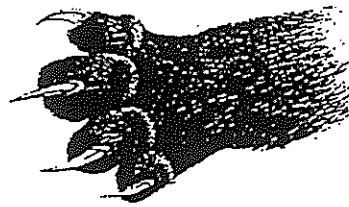
PROTRACTABLE CLAWS

FELINE CLAWS ARE PROTRACTABLE AND RETRACTABLE.



**RETRACTED
(SHEATHED/AT REST)**

PROTRACTED/EXTENDED



Cats' claws grow from the ends of each outermost toe bone. An intricate system of elastic ligaments and muscles allows the claws to remain sheathed under a fold of skin most of the time. Thus, the cat can move silently without catching its claws. When the claws are needed for hunting, defense, climbing, raking litter/earth, and countless other tasks, the muscles on the toes rotate the toe bones forward. This action pushes out the claws. Ultimately the claws return to their resting or retracted positions.

SCRATCHING IS INTEGRAL, PURPOSEFUL, AND PRIZED.

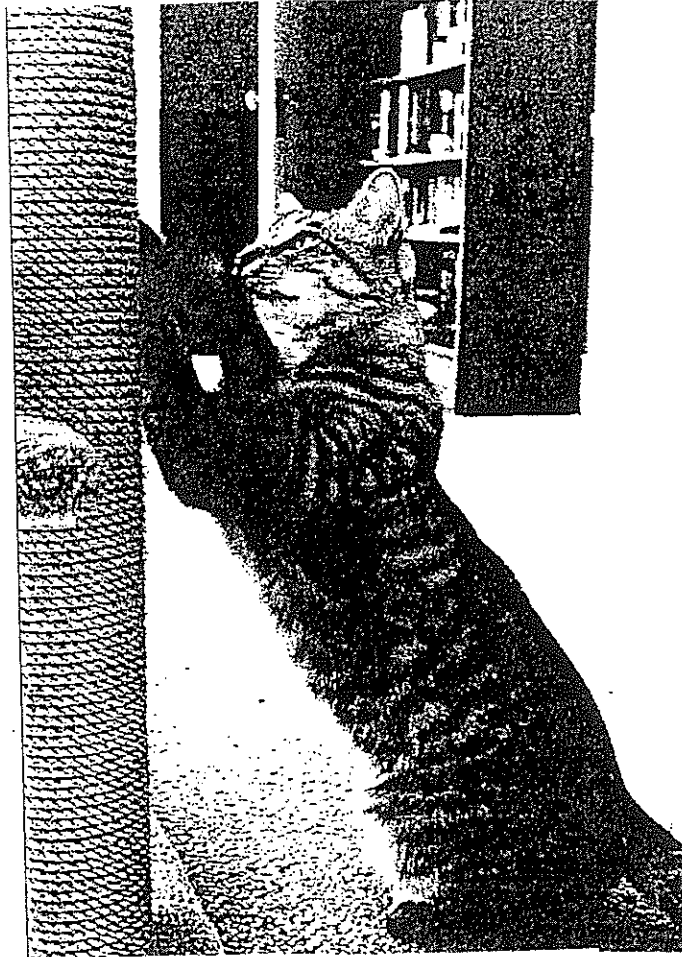
Cats scratch to mark territory, groom claws, stretch and exercise muscles, relieve boredom, release stress, and perhaps to meet other needs we do not yet understand.

Scratching is NOT a misbehavior.



Please see page herein titled *It's Easy to Train a Cat to Use a Scratcher.*

SCRATCHING IS INTEGRAL, PURPOSEFUL, AND PRIZED.



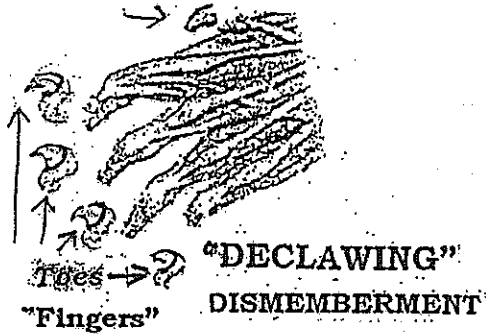
SCRATCHING IS NOT A MISBEHAVIOR.

“Claws are vital to the psychological and emotional well being of every cat, including indoor cats. Scratching is one of the most enjoyable things a cat does.”

Kate Gamble, Cat Behaviorist

ONGOING VETERINARY CRUELTY

MAIMING, MUTILATION OF HEALTHY FELINE PAWS



TENDONECTOMY

DISFIGUREMENT

DECLAWING IS AMPUTATION OF TOES WITH THE CLAWS AT OR JUST BEFORE THE OUTERMOST PAW JOINTS.

TENDONECTOMY IS SEVERING OF PAW TENDONS THAT ALLOW ANIMAL TO CONTROL ITS TOES ("FINGERS") and EXCISING SEVERAL MILLIMETERS FROM EACH TENDON.

Veterinarians Spread False Information Nationwide to Justify Their Cruel Surgeries that Cripple Millions of Cats

Please consider/share the exposé at:

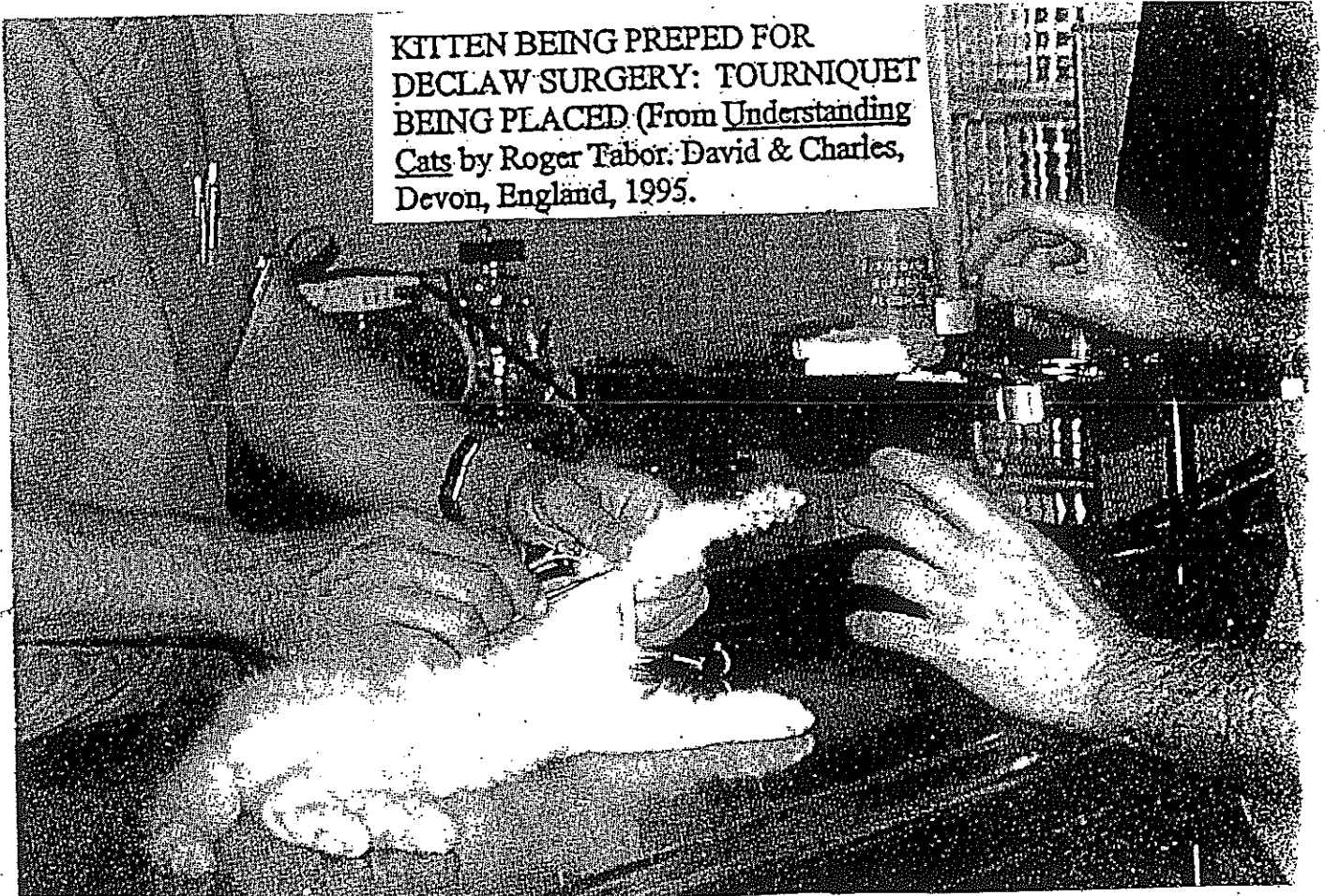
- www.doctormwfox.org. Click on link: "Why Not to Declaw."

or

- <http://tedebuy.tripod.com/drmichaelwfox/id115.html>

ONGOING VETERINARY CRUELTY TO CATS IS CITED.

KITTEN BEING PREPED FOR
DECLAW SURGERY: TOURNIQUET
BEING PLACED. (From Understanding
Cats by Roger Tabor. David & Charles,
Devon, England, 1995.



**"...I, for one, would like to see declawing or 'claw modification'
banned as an inhumane and unnecessary mutilation."**

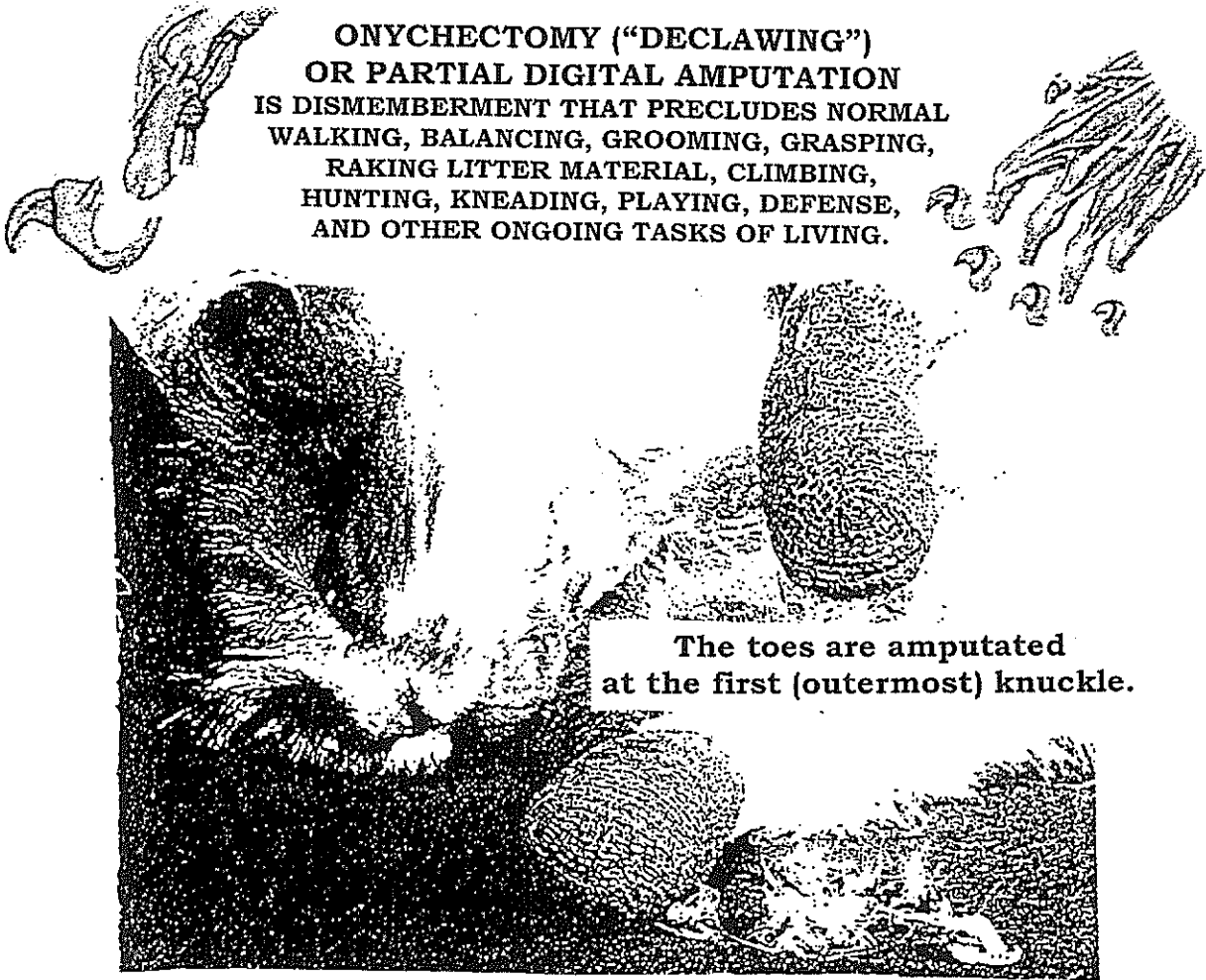
**Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, DACVB
Section Head, Animal Behavior
Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine**

**"Declawing is an inhumane, unnecessary procedure that has
many humane alternatives. It is never in the cat's best
interest. The same goes for tendonectomy.**

Betsy Libpscomb, President, Cats International, Inc.

ONGOING VETERINARY CRUELTY TO CATS

**ONYCHECTOMY ("DECLAWING")
OR PARTIAL DIGITAL AMPUTATION
IS DISMEMBERMENT THAT PRECLUDES NORMAL
WALKING, BALANCING, GROOMING, GRASPING,
RAKING LITTER MATERIAL, CLIMBING,
HUNTING, KNEADING, PLAYING, DEFENSE,
AND OTHER ONGOING TASKS OF LIVING.**

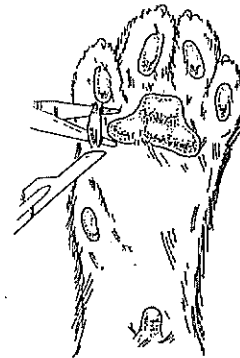


**The toes are amputated
at the first (outermost) knuckle.**

**RIGHT AFTER DECLAWING: REMOVED PARTS ON TABLE,
i.e., BONES, CLAWS, CLAW ROOTS, CONNECTIVE TISSUE,
TENDONS, NERVES, BLOOD VESSELS, FUR (From
Wild Discovery Guide to Your Cat, Random House, NY, 1999)**

TENDONECTOMY

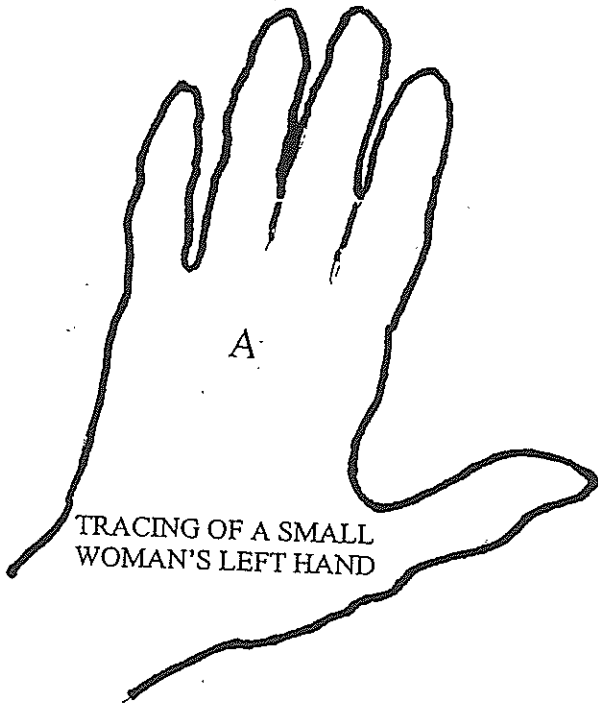
**IS DISFIGUREMENT THAT RENDERS THE CAT
WITHOUT NORMAL USE OF ITS PAWS AND
CLAWS. THE CAT CANNOT EVEN GROOM
ITS OWN CLAWS, THUS NECESSITATING THAT
SOMEONE TRIM THE INCAPACITATED, MUTILATED
CLAWS, LEST THEY GROW INTO THE PAWS.**



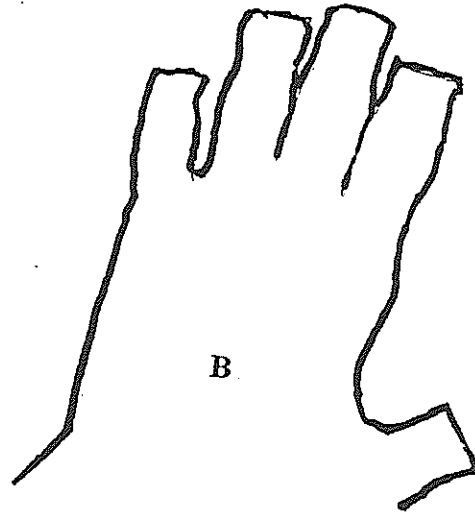
**Incisions are made deep enough to expose
The deep digital flexor tendons. The tendons
are isolated and several millimeters
of each tendon are excised.**

“DECLAWING” EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF HUMAN HAND DISMEMBERMENT

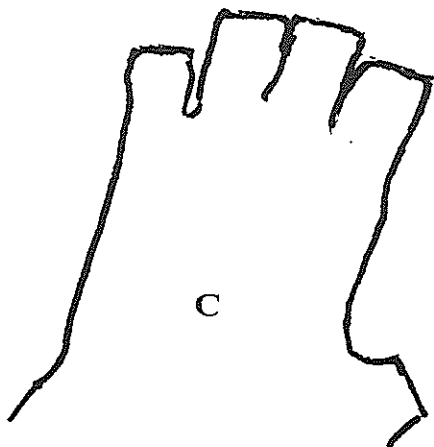
By precluding the animal’s ability to walk, balance, groom, grasp, play, communicate, excavate litter material, climb, and perform countless other significant life activities normally, these practices, themselves, constitute prima facie animal cruelty.



TRACING OF A SMALL WOMAN'S LEFT HAND



TRACING OF HAND WITH OUTER PHALANGES REMOVED: ANALOGOUS TO DECLAWING



TRACING OF HAND WITH TWO PHALANGES REMOVED—PERHAPS MORE ANALOGOUS TO DECLAWING AS THE CLAWS ARE LIKE SEPARATE, ADDITIONAL, UNIQUE UTENSILS!

NOW THE TOOLS OF LIVING AND COPING ARE GONE!
PHYSICAL PAIN ASIDE, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL AND THINK WHEN YOU WENT TO A STRANGE OR FAMILIAR PLACE, AND THEN WOKE UP WITHOUT THE ENDS OF YOUR FINGERS AND TOES? (CATS WALK ON THEIR FRONT LIMBS, TOO.)

There is no health benefit to these procedures.

This cruel crippling has been followed by overwhelming negative behavioral / psychological and physical sequelae, as noted and described by many.

PITHY STATEMENTS OF NOTED VETERINARIANS



NICHOLAS H. DODMAN,
BVMS, MRCVS, DACVB

Head of Animal Behavior
Section, Tufts University
School of Veterinary Medicine

“One highly regarded British textbook by Turner and Bateson on the biology of cat behavior concludes a short section on scratching behavior with the following statement:

“The operative removal of the claws...is an *act of abuse* and should be forbidden by law in all, not just a few countries.”

“That just about sums it up for me too.”

Nicholas H. Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, DACVB
(The Cat who Cried for Help)



MICHAEL W. FOX,
PhD, MRCVS

Author, Syndicated Newspaper
Columnist, Past-President of
The Humane Society of the
United States

“The veterinary sector that condones feline de-clawing or other maiming of healthy feline limbs is admitting a profound ignorance of—and/or disregard for applied feline behavior and psychology and of veterinary bioethics.”

“These horrendous procedures should be prohibited by law for all cats, large and small.”

Michael W. Fox,
B.Vet.Med., Ph.D., D.Sc., MRCVS