



## TRIMMING YOUR DOG'S NAILS

Trimming your dog's nails is not just a part of grooming; it's important for your pet's health as well. Untrimmed nails can cause a variety of problems including broken nails, which are painful and can bleed profusely.

While some dogs don't seem to mind when you're trimming their nails, others just plain don't like it. Make trimming time fun and not a struggle. The earlier you start clipping your puppy's nails, the better they will tolerate it in the future. Frequent happy trims when your dog is young will help diminish any fear. If your pet is older and is not used to having their nails trimmed, start slowly and work up to it gradually.

### FOLLOWING THESE SUGGESTIONS FOR A PROPER NAIL TRIM MIGHT HELP YOU GIVE YOUR DOG A MORE PLEASANT PEDICURE

#### LEARN THE ANATOMY

- Within the center of each nail is the blood and nerve supply for the nail called the "quick"
  - This quick will recede if the nails are trimmed regularly
- In white nails the quick is the pinkish area in the middle of the nail
- In black nails the quick is unable to be visualized

#### THE PROPER INSTRUMENTS

- Nail trimmers that are designed for dogs
  - There are a variety of nail trimmers available pet stores
- Styptic powder
  - Stops bleeding if the quick is cut
- Treats
  - Helps to make the process a happy one
- An extra person
  - Helps distract and offer treats

#### PROCEDURES

- **CLIPPERS**
  - Determine how much needs to be trimmed
    - The nail should be even with the paw pad
    - Trim nails so that when the animal steps down, nails do not touch the floor
    - Don't forget to trim the dewclaw as well
- **WHITE NAILS**
  - Find the quick and trim to within a few millimeters from it
    - Cut the nail below the quick on a 45-degree angle





- **BLACK NAILS**
  - Make several small nips with the clippers instead of one larger one
- OR
  - Trim very thin slices off the end of the nail until you see a black dot appear towards the center when you look at it head on
    - This is the start of the quick that you want to avoid
- **NAIL GRINDER**
  - Basically a "dremel" tool that grinds your dogs nail to its desired length
  - The amount you take off the nail is similar to the above
- Cutting into the quick will cause the nail to bleed a small amount
  - Applying styptic powder/flour/cornstarch to the quick will stop the bleeding
  - Applying a light bandage for about 15 minutes will stop the bleeding
    - If the bleeding continues, give us a call

