



## Trimming your cat's nails

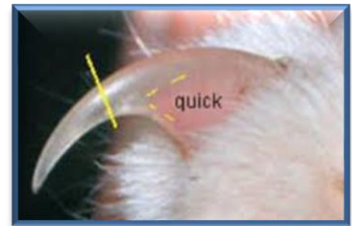
Trimming your cat's nails is not just a part of grooming; it's important for your pet's health as well. Untrimmed nails can cause a variety of problems including broken nails, which are painful and can bleed profusely.

While some cats 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 kitten's nails, the better they will tolerate it in the future. Frequent happy trims when your cat 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

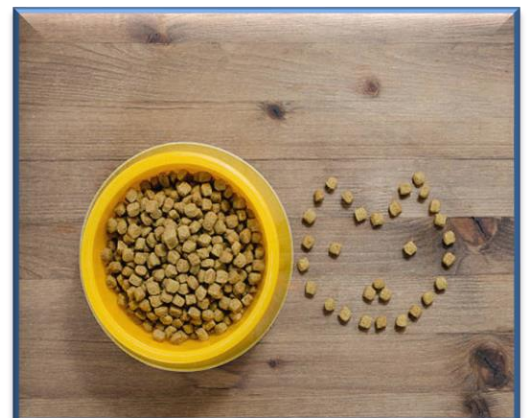
### ❖ Learn the anatomy

- ❖ 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
- ❖ Most cats have light colored claws nails making the quick easily visualized
  - ❖ If your cat has dark nails, just trim off the "hook" of the nail
    - ❖ Stay away from the thickest part of the nail
- ❖ Cats have a nail on the inner side of each foot called the dew claw. Remember to trim these as



### ❖ The proper instruments

- ❖ Nail trimmers that are designed for cats
  - ❖ There are a variety of nail trimmers available pet stores
    - ❖ The guillotine type or a human fingernail clipper are easiest to use in cats
    - ❖ The scissors-type is used if a toe nail is so long that it is curling in a circle.
  - ❖
- ❖ 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

### ❖ Trimming

- ❖ Cats have retractile claws
  - ❖ Gently squeeze the toe between your thumb and forefinger to expose the nail
- ❖ Determine how much needs to be trimmed
  - ❖ You want to cut the claw to within approximately 2 millimeters of the quick
- ❖ Human nail clipper/Plier type nail trimmer
  - ❖ The clipper should be placed perpendicular to the nail
    - ❖ If the trimmer is placed parallel to the nail, the nail is crushed and may splinter
  - ❖ The sharper the trimmer, the cleaner the cut
    - ❖ You can use a nail file to smooth the end of the nail after clipping
  - ❖ Don't forget to trim the dewclaws
    - ❖ These nails are not worn down when the cat scratches and can grow in a circle and become ingrown
- ❖ Guillotine type nail trimmer
  - ❖ The cutting blade should be facing you
  - ❖ The screws on the trimmer should be facing the cat
  - ❖ The nail should be cut from top to bottom
  - ❖ The tip of the nail is placed in the hole of the trimmer and the handles are squeezed to advance the cutting blade through the nail
    - ❖ You can use a nail file to smooth the end of the nail after clipping
  - ❖ Don't forget to trim the dewclaws
    - ❖ These nails are not worn down when the cat scratches and can grow in a circle and become ingrown
- ❖ 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

