

Take the stress out of nail trimming!

It is very important to get your pet used to having his/her paws handled on a regular basis.

Start young or as soon as you get your pet and make it a regular habit. The more you get the nails done, the more the dog will become accustomed to it.

Be firm and confident, but never aggressive or over bearing because you may do more harm than good.

Try and make handling the paws a positive experience always. Reward you pets with treats and praise after every session working with the paws.

Have patience and get the dogs used to having their paws handled gradually and never attempt to do nails while the dog is asleep.

Put the dog on a raised surface such as the top of your washer or on a counter top with a non-slip mat such as a bath mat.

Exercise your dog and take them out for a “potty” break before a nail trimming.

The Professional Pet Groomers Association of Manitoba, Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit organization whose members care passionately about pet grooming and are committed to building a strong, professional grooming society in the province of Manitoba.

A Guide to Nail Clipping

How often should your dogs nails be trimmed?

The average dog will require a nail clipping about every 4 weeks. This is the average but each dog is an individual. The length of time between trims will be determined by the amount of exercise on concrete or gravel, the dog's conformation, the dog's activity level and breed. Your Professional Pet Stylist can help you set up a schedule based on your dogs needs. You will usually be alerted to the need for a nail trim by the sound of clicking as the dog walks on hardwood or linoleum floors.

Do I make an appointment for a nail trim?

Every grooming shop works a little differently. Contact your groomer to find out what the policy is at that particular shop. Not every groomer allows for walk in nail trims and some shops do Pawdicures, while others just do nail trims.

What is A pawdicure?

A "Pawdicure" is a canine nail trim that includes filing of the nails with a dremel tool and tidying the hair of the pads if applicable.

Overgrown Nails?

When a dogs nails are allowed to over grow the vein in the nail (referred to as the "quick") grows along with it. This makes it difficult for the person cutting the nails to get the nails very short. Dew claws tend to grow twice as fast as any-other nail because they have no contact with the ground and nothing to wear them down.

Dogs with long quicks can come in more frequently and the groomers can try to come as close to the quick as possible and help that quick to recede. Unfortunately this technique usually does not work in the older pets.

Why is it important to get the Nails so short?

When a dog's nails and "quicks" overgrow the animal may then start to walk on its nails instead of the pads of his paws. This is painful and can cause deformation of the paws, arthritis and lameness. It may also cause the dog to shift it's gate and become sore in the paws, legs, hips and shoulders.

Overgrown nails may sometimes curl around and grow into the pads of the paws. This is painful and may need veterinary care.

Shorter nails are less likely to break off or become stuck in things such as the carpet or blanket. Both of these things are far more painful then a "quicked" nail.

What if my dog bleeds from a nail trim?

Don't Panic, it not un-common for a dog's nail to be cut past the quick. This is not done from negligence, or carelessness or inexperience.

There is no way to tell how far to cut a dogs nail back 100 percent. It is an educated guess only.

Also, dogs are moving targets, the more they move, the more likely they are to be "quicked".

This happens so regularly that there are more than 15 different companies makes a cauterizing powder to stop the bleeding.

Your Professional Pet Stylist will make sure that the nail has stopped bleeding before the pet goes home.

If your pets nail should start to bleed at home, you can clean the toe off with some ice water and apply flour or cornstarch to the nail if you do not have a cauterizing

Will my dog be traumatized by a quicked nail?

Dogs are resilient and have a high threshold for this kind of thing. It is the owners that are traumatized far more often than the dogs.

Many dogs will have a nail cut short in their lifetime and many do not even notice when it happens, what they do notice is your reaction. The dogs are not damaged in any way from this and the nail will grow back as normal.

Cats Require Nail care too!

Cats also need to have their nails trimmed on a regular basis, about every 3 to 4 weeks. This will help keep your cats claws from becoming stuck in your couch or blankets and the carpet.

As cats become older their nails may become thicker either from lack of use due to arthritis or other ailments. Thicker nails means that they are not "scratching" the layers of keratin off, this is not a direct health concern but they do need trimming to help aid in healthy nail growth.

Cat nails can grow long enough to curl into the pads which is very painful and could become a costly vet bill.

Remember, your cats need a place to "scratch" so be sure to have something available to them so they are not using your sofa!