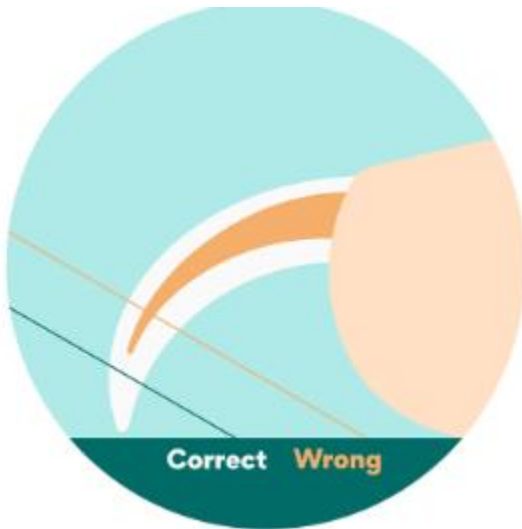


If you've never trimmed your dog's nails before, start small with these steps:

- Let your dog sniff the nail clippers or grinder, then reward them with a treat.
 - Turn on the nail grinder or cut a dry spaghetti noodle to get your dog used to the sound the tool makes, then reward them.
 - Cut one nail and give your dog a treat.
 - Only do one nail a day at first until your dog gets used to it. Gradually start doing more nails at each sitting until your dog holds still for all four paws.
1. Pick up the foot
 - a. While it's tempting to pick up your dog's paw from the front and look at the nails head-on, there are easier ways to trim your dog's nails. Some pet parents find it easiest to sit to the side of their dog and reach under and around their dog's arm to hold the paw, like in the photo above. Then, with your free hand, you can trim with clippers.
 - b. For other dogs, it's easier if you sit behind the dog and flip their paw backward to look at the bottom of the foot. This gives you a great view of what you're doing while keeping your dog's leg in a natural position.
 2. Isolate the nail
 - a. Decide which toe to start with and expose the nail.
 - b. If your dog has furry feet, you'll need to push or trim hair out of the way to see what you're doing. This is especially important if you're using a nail grinder! The biggest downside to nail grinders is that they tend to grab fur and yank.
 - c. Next, place your forefinger on the toe's pad and your thumb on the top of the toe on the skin above the nail. Push your forefinger up and backward on the pad while pushing your thumb forward to extend the nail away from the foot.



3. Decide where to cut
 - a. The goal is to cut your dog's nails as short as possible without making them bleed. Here are some tips for how to avoid the quick:
 - i. For white nails, just avoid cutting the pink part.
 - ii. On many nails, the part you can safely cut is much skinnier than the rest of the nail.



- iii. When cutting black nails, cut off a little bit at a time. When you're getting near the quick, the inside of the nail will look chalky and white. Stop when you see a black dot in the middle of the white area—that's the end of the quick.

What Happens if I Cut the Quick?

If you cut your dog's quick, it will hurt and bleed. Since not all pups hold still for nail trims, even professional groomers cut the quick sometimes, so don't beat yourself up if it happens!

Keep cornstarch, flour, or styptic powder handy. While cornstarch and flour can stop the bleeding, only styptic powder can also help ease pain because it contains Benzocaine.

The best way to avoid cutting the quick is to cut little bits of the nail at a time rather than going for a big chunk. If you happen to cut the quick, stay calm. Scoop up some styptic powder, flour or cornstarch and press it to the quicked nail for a few seconds.

If your dog gets blood in their fur after a quicked nail, it's safe and easy to wipe it away with hydrogen peroxide on a cotton ball.

4. Cut at a 45° angle
 - a. The cut edge of your dog's nail should run parallel with the floor. To do that, cut at a 45 degree angle rather than straight across.
5. Don't forget the dewclaws
 - a. Most dogs have dewclaws on the inside of their front legs. The claws are up the leg a little further than the rest of your dog's toes and are loosely attached.
 - b. Some dog breeds, like Saint Bernards and Great Pyrenees, have double dewclaws on their back legs, so be sure to check all four feet.