

East Suburban Animal Hospital
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How to trim your Pet's Toenails

Our goal is to have you, as our client, understand and be comfortable at home, on your own, and to make this a pleasurable experience for all.

Preparation

- Find an adequate space
 - Choose a location where you can contain your pet, but they are comfortable. For a cat, this may be the top of your dryer and for a dog, a closed in location, such as a laundry room.
 - Be sure no one can bump into anything.
 - Choose a well-lit area
 - Have supplies at an easy reach.
- Supplies
 - Toenail Trimmers
 - Blood Clotting Suspension
 - Cotton Tipped Applicators (for blood clotting suspension)
 - Paper Towels
 - Treats for distraction

This should be a Positive Experience!!

Please be patient with your pet and yourself. Go slow and take breaks. Start with 1 paw at time. As your pet becomes more comfortable, you can have longer sessions. It takes time to feel comfortable and for your pet to get used to having their nails trimmed. Give treats and lots of praise. If they start to struggle, let them have a break. Don't give up, keep trying.

Helpful Hints

- Treats that take a while to eat make great distractions.
- Peanut Butter (if no human allergies), Easy Cheese, and Frozen treats all work well.
- Muzzles, while not always necessary, sometimes provide a distraction for your pet.
- Use an emery board to smooth rough edges
- Get Help! Enlist a friend to help hold or give treats.

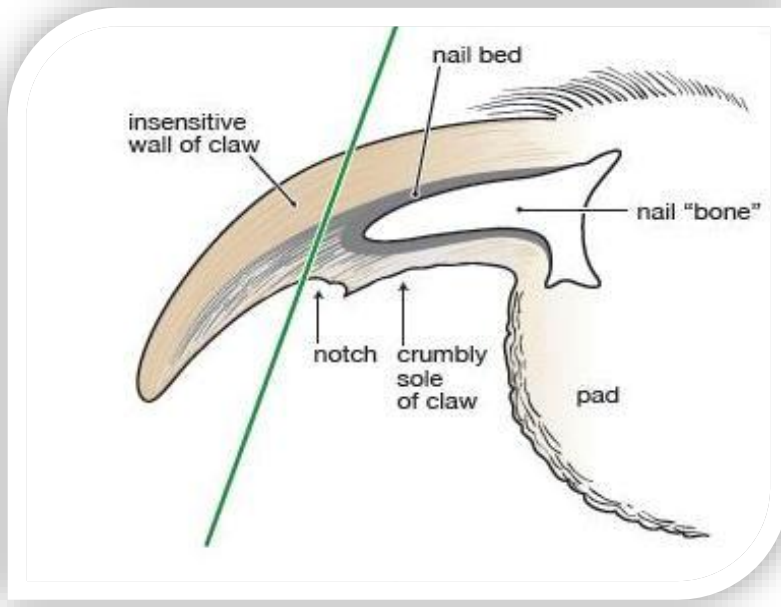
Prevention

- Walking on hard surfaces will naturally wear down toenails and push back the kwik.

Blood Clotting Alternatives

- Flour
- Cornstarch
- Mud
- Snow
- Bar of soap (wet soap and use the "slimy soap")

Nail Anatomy



The above image is the anatomy of your pet's nail. The kwik, the part that bleeds, is located in front of the nail bone. The line on the image is a suggestion on the angle to trim the nail. However, the length and shape of the nail can differ from pet to pet. You may have to judge by trimming a small amount at a time to find the kwik on your pet's nails.

When to seek Medical Attention

If you cut the nail too short, you should be able to stop the bleeding using a blood clotting solution. Seek medical attention or call us for advice for the following:

- Toenail that is ingrown into paw pad
- Broken toenail
- Nail that will not stop bleeding

How to Trim:

- Place the trimmers around the toenail at the notch. Once you are comfortable with trimming, you will be able to decide what angle is best for your pet.
- When trimming, it is best to start out by taking small amounts at a time. This way you can avoid causing discomfort or bleeding.
- If you trim too far back and cause bleeding, you can apply a blood clotting suspension. Apply pressure to the base of the toenail and dab blood away with a paper towel. Dip cotton tipped applicator into blood clotting suspension and apply with moderate pressure to the toenail tip. If still bleeding, reapply again.
- Don't forget to check if your pet has dewclaws, these often are longer, as they do not have contact on surfaces to wear naturally.