



Lake Minnetonka Pet Wellness Center

Wayzata

Phone: 952 471-0911 www.tonka.vet

Westonka Animal Hospital & Laser Surgery Center

Mound

Phone: 952 472-4900 www.westonka.vet

Trimming Nails On Pets

Pets have nails that continue to grow, just like we do. Those pets that spend a lot of time on a hard surface, such as ground, or hard floors, or who walk on cement will naturally wear their nails to an appropriate length. Pets who spend a lot of time on carpet, often need to have their nails trimmed.

Start Nail Trimming When Pets Are Young

Trimming nails is easy to do if it is started properly, when your pet is still young. The goal of an owner who wants to trim their pet's nails should be to remove the sharp points. A common mistake that owners make is trying to cut the nail as short as possible, often times cutting the "quick" or the living, sensitive, bleeding part of the nail. This then begins a downward cycle where the pet becomes anxious and shakes, and increasing the likelihood of another quick being cut. If you want to trim your pet's nails, only take the sharp points off and do it more frequently (weekly versus monthly).

When you are training your pet to allow nail trimming, have short training sessions. Don't try to do all the nails at once. This is too stressful for the pet when beginning training. Just do one or two nails at a time. Just like all other forms of training, rewards for good behavior are vital. After a nail has been successfully trimmed, verbally and physically praise your pet. Make it a joyous occasion and let your pet know how happy you are.



A scissors type of trimmer. ideal for

Trimmer Types

Small pets can have a simple to use, "scissors" type of nail trimmer. This is the preferred type of trimmer for cats. There are larger types of scissors nail trimmers for larger pets as well. As long as they are kept sharp, they work fine.

A guillotine type of nail

Another popular type of nail trimmer for dogs is the "guillotine" type (for example, the "Resco" brand of trimmers). It consists of a stationary head in which a blade moves within the head. These are popular because the blades can be replaced periodically, thus insuring a sharp blade. You do need to be careful how you hold a guillotine type of trimmer so that the quick is not cut. There are two handles, a handle that is solidly attached to the head and a handle that advances the cutting blade. The trimmer should be held so that the handle that advances the blade is laid in the palm of the hand. This keeps the head from accidentally advancing up the nail.



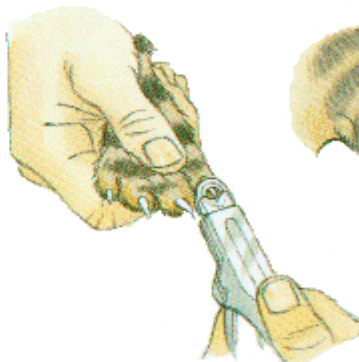


The nail trimmer on the left is probably the most popular and easiest to use. Most commonly it is used in large dogs but there is also a medium size available. This

A "p



**On A Cat,
Pushing Down On
The Toe Will Cause The
Nail To Extend**



Quick
**Where To
Cut Nail**

What Happens If I Do Cut Into The Quick?

Cutting a nail too short is extremely common. It happens to professionals too. You should be prepared before you attempt to cut nails just in case this happens. There are blood clotting products sold at pet stores that you should have available.

When the quick is cut into, the nail will bleed and the pet will cry in pain. Try to soothe the pet verbally and physically if this should happen. To stop the bleeding, with one of the blood clotting products you have prepurchased. If you do not have such a product on hand, try using corn starch.

Puppies Who Jump

If the reason you want to trim your puppy's nails is because it hurts when he jumps on family members, then you are focusing on the wrong issue. You should try to eliminate the jumping behavior instead.