

What every Feline Family should know:



Step-by-step guide to feline nail trims

Trimming kitty's nails is not as difficult as you might think. You can always ask your veterinarian to do this for you during your cat's next regularly-scheduled physical. However, it's easy to do at home and most cats' nails should be trimmed every two weeks depending on how fast they grow. The more you do it, the more your kitty will get used to it. Follow these easy steps for home nail trims.

1) Buy a trimmer.

We suggest scissor-style trimmers (used at The Cat Practice). Most nail trimmers are inexpensive (no more than \$10) and are available at pet supplies stores.

2) Get kitty used to touch.

When kitty is relaxed or napping, gently touch the paws and toes. Play with the toes and extend the claws by applying gentle pressure to the paw pad and last joint of the toe. Praise your cat when he or she allows you to do this without resistance. Keep it short and positive and try to do it a couple times a day.

3) Choose a place and position.

Choose a comfortable chair or seat for you to sit on. Place kitty on your lap, and turn him or her over so your cat is lying on his or her back, on your lap. If your cat doesn't like being on his or her back, choose an elevated surface such as a table or counter where kitty can sit.

4) Trim nails.

Gently hold onto one paw at a time. Extend the claws by applying gentle pressure to the paw pad and last joint of each toe. When you extend a nail, look closely at it. You will see pink running through the center of the nail. This is called the **Quick**, where the nerve and blood vessel are located. (See diagram.) Place the open trimmers **above the Quick** in the dead part (white area) of the nail, and cut in one quick motion. Trim a little bit at a time until you get used to it.



5) Use baking flour if you nick the Quick.

Nail trimming doesn't hurt (contrary to what your cat may try to make you believe!). Only if you accidentally cut the nail too short (into the Quick) will kitty feel a little pain, but only slight. If this happens, and the paw begins to bleed, take a little baking flour and apply it to the end of the nail where it's bleeding. This will clot the blood and stop the bleeding.

6) Provide positive reinforcement.

Speak in a calm, reassuring manner throughout the process and give kitty a tasty treat afterwards.

For more information on nail trims, watch our Me-Yow Tube™ video on **Taking the edge off of nail cutting: How to make nail trims easy.**



Find out about
trimming kitty's nails.



You'll need a smartphone and
barcode scanner app like the
one from redlaser.com

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NOTE: Our "Feline Family" series covers many important topics to help your feline family members live longer, better and healthier lives. For other topics, or more information, go to www.thecatpracticepc.com or call us at 248-540-3390.