

SUMMERWIND CANINES DOG TRAINING



TOENAIL CARE

Puppy pedicures are generally a simple procedure, like brushing, ear cleaning and bathing. Events that you have trained them to accept since puppyhood. There are, of course, exceptions to all rules, including the normally obedient and docile dog that simply will not tolerate having toenails clipped and in some cases won't allow their feet to be handled at all. This aversion can sometimes be traced back to a painful experience involving toenails and/or feet but nonetheless, you must trim the nails to maintain healthy feet and body structure. This is especially important with less active dogs as their nails do not wear down as rapidly. Behavior modification techniques will help ease the trauma for you and your dog when nail trimming is due.

Toe nail clipper



Grinder



Styptic powder



TOENAILCARE-SESSION ONE

Begin by touching your dog on the leg, or the place closest to the nails that does not cause the dog to object. Reward this tolerance with a very small, very tasty treat. Next, touch a little closer and again reward with food. Keep repeating, perhaps, many, many times, each time moving a little closer to the toes, stopping when the dog seems to resent the intrusion.

TOENAILCARE-SESSION TWO

Repeat the steps from day one. When the dog lets you touch the toes, move to the next step, picking up the foot. When this can be done without causing objection, touch the toenail clipper or nail grinder (in the off position) to the toes. Remember to reward the desired behavior as you progress.

TOENAILCARE-DAILY ROUTINE

Eventually, you should be able to begin clipping one toenail. Avoid the temptation to clip all the nails at once. Clip one nail a day, after rewarding the dog for tolerating your touching to handle all the feet. Spend time to recognize how far you are able to move with each day's training. Given persistence, your dog should accept nail trimming without difficulty.



Trimming should be done weekly to keep the toenail quick far back into the nail. Trim just the tip of the nail. If the nail is white in color you will see the pink quick. Trim just on side of the quick. If you do hit the quick use the styptic powder with pressure to stop the bleeding. If your dog has toenails black in color trim the tip and look at the inside of the nail. If you see a quick in the center of the nail trim no further. You may trim another sliver of nail if you do not. Repeat as necessary. Prepare yourself with the proper clippers shown below and/or battery operated grinder and styptic powder (Kwik Stop). If the dew claw has become embedded in the flesh you may need to contact your veterinarian. If the toenail is broken and hangs by a small piece of tissue, pull the broken piece off with a hard twist motion. If it bleeds, use styptic powder. Below are some additional suggestions.

Long dew claw



Quick = pink, clip below the quick



Good example of short nails

