animal rescue league NH

Tips and tricks for trim time

How to paws-itively approach nail trims with your cat!

NAIL TRIM BENEFITS

- health
- prevents discomfort and painful ingrown claws
- cleanliness
- helps protect furniture
- lessens chances of getting scratched!

Every cat is different. Some allow nail trims easily, but most squirm, try to get away or resist. Trims can be stressful for cats, especially if they are nervous, do not like handling or restraint or are active or "busy," so go at your cat's pace and give rewards (treats, praise or affection)!



Using **rewards can help build trust** (on both ends). Some cats must go to the vet for nail trims due to stress, but many can be trained to allow nail trims by seeing that nail trims = good things. See steps (suggested) below!





Training using rewards!

STEPS

1. Choose a laid-back, quiet time when your cat is relaxed (avoid busier times, like playtime). Touch one of their paws. Give a treat, praise or petting. If they seem stressed, end there for the day.
2. Pick up your cat's paw, hold it, give a treat, petting and/or praise.
3. Pick up your cat's paw. Support paw pad with forefingers and gently press down on the joint of one toe with your thumb. **Identify the quick:** the pink of the nail with sensitive nerve endings and blood vessels (like the pink of a person's nail). If clipped, it will sting and bleed so it should be **avoided**. Give a reward.
4. Repeat until you and your cat feel confident!

Selecting clippers: Begin with the type that makes you most comfortable. Always replace old clippers with new ones to avoid breaking the nail and to produce even cuts. If your cat rejects one option, try another!



Clipper options

- scissor-style
- guillotine-style
- human nail clippers





SCAN ME!

Watch the video!

TRIM TIME
STEPS

animal rescue league NH

1. Gather

- clippers
- Quickstop styptic powder (optional)
- treats
- a helper, if available (sometimes needed)

LIST
- clippers (sharp)
- Quickstop (optional)
- treats
- a helper (if available!)



Choose a quiet room with good lighting during a relaxed or sleepy time of day for your cat.

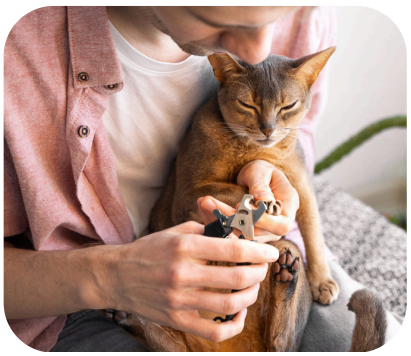
If you have a helper, decide who will hold and who will trim (the one holding is a "spotter" for the trimmer). Decide how you will hold your cat:



OPTIONS

- in your lap, back against you, while sitting in a chair or cross-legged
- on a table, while standing or sitting
- with a helper, if they like being held, in your arms

How?



2. Find the quick

Pick up your cat's paw, forefingers below the pad and thumb above.

Press down gently on the joint of one toe until the whole nail is visible including the pink quick.

For black nails, shine a light on nails or look below (the quick is darker than the nail)



3. Trim just below the quick and avoid the pink; taking too little is better than too much. Take only a little if new to it.

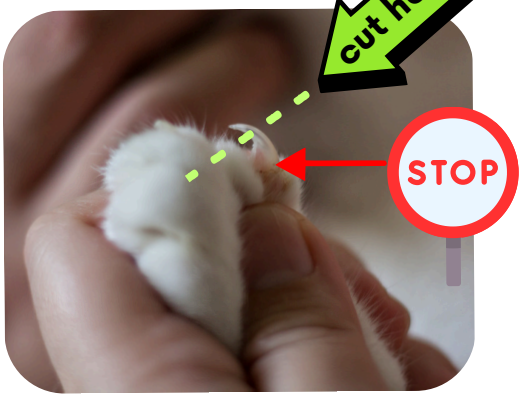
Clip as many or few nails as your cat will allow. Pushing your cat too quickly can make them dislike nail trims.

If a quick gets clipped, do not worry. Dip the nail in Quickstop for a few seconds. Offer apologies, petting and treats, and end the session! Begin again another day.

For long-haired cats, avoid tangling fur in clippers and pinching them!









Keep it paws-itive! Speed can also help prevent your cat from over-thinking, but if you are new to nail trims, focus on avoiding the quick and providing a good experience!