

# How to Trim Your Dog's Nails Safely

*Harriet Meyers*

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Nail trimming is an essential part of dog grooming, and trim nails are one clear sign of your dog's good health and hygiene. Professional groomers will perform the task for squeamish owners, but dog nail trimming is a simple procedure if done correctly.

Since nail trimming can be an anxiety-laden experience for many dogs, start handling your puppy's feet and trimming their nails when they're young, so they become accustomed to the process. Some dogs will sit in your lap or on a table while you clip their nails, while others may need some form of restraint.

Luckily, you can make the process more fun for your dog by letting them [lick peanut butter](#) off [a silicone wall mat](#) while you handle the nails.

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## Getting Your Dog Comfortable

In as little as one week, you can have one of those rare dogs who doesn't mind nail trimming one bit. But, if it takes your pup a little longer to get used to it, don't despair. Be patient, keep a gentle and positive attitude, and continue to offer praise and treats. Make sure to use safe, [dog-friendly clippers or grinders](#).

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It helps if you frequently touch and hold your puppy's paws (gently and cheerfully) right from the first day, so they won't become sensitive to having their feet handled.

**Day 1:** Let your puppy sniff the nail clipper or grinder. Give a treat and praise.

**Day 2:** Touch the nail clipper or grinder lightly on each paw. Give a treat and praise.

**Day 3:** Touch the nail clipper to each paw and squeeze the clipper so the puppy hears the sound, or turn the grinder on and let the puppy feel the vibration. Don't actually trim a nail. Give a treat and praise.

**Day 4:** Touch the nail clipper or grinder to your puppy's feet again. Give a treat and praise.

**Day 5:** Try trimming off just the very tiniest tip from one front paw nail. Only do one nail. Offer lots of happy praise and a treat if your puppy lets you. Even if he lets you, just do one. Repeat every day until he lets you do this and doesn't seem to mind.