

## How to Trim Your Dog's Nails Without Them Hating You!

Keeping your dog's nails trimmed is important and should be a part of your usual health routine with your dog. If your dog's nails aren't trimmed properly, your dog could get infections, broken or ingrown nails and other painful conditions. Some dogs will naturally wear down their nail by walking or playing especially if your daily walk involves cement. Older and inactive dogs tend to avoid hard surfaces and will not wear their nails down. In all cases, it is important to look at your dog's nails and keep them on the shorter side.

### How can you tell if your dog's nails are too long?

If your dog's nails are too long, you will hear them clack when your dog walks on hard surfaces. Another way to tell if your dog's nails are too long is if your pup's claws protrude over the pad and touch the ground when your dog is standing.

### Cutting your dogs' nails need to be associated with a positive experience.

Many dogs find nail trimming annoying and try to avoid it at all costs! Some dogs naturally dislike the sensation of people handling their feet. Trimming can also cause discomfort when the clippers squeeze or slightly twist the nail so try to make the experience a positive one. Try to clip a nail or two (or three is possible) and then feed your dog his favorite treat. Clip another nail or two and feed another treat. With repetition and a little time, your dog will probably decide that getting his nails done is not frightening and worth the effort and rewards.

### Buy dog clippers that you feel comfortable with using and can get the job done.

Make sure to purchase a specially made implement for the job of cutting your dog's nails. There are several styles of nail trimmers available. Guillotine nail clippers are often the easiest to use and work well for small breeds. Plier dog nail clippers with a scissors type action are also very effective and especially suit larger breeds or if the dog has strong, thick nails. Look for a claw cutter with sharp stainless steel blades and a comfortable handle with plenty of grip.

### Try one nail to get the feeling and action right and then move onto the next.

Take your dog's toe and hold it firmly but gently between your fingers. If you're using a scissors-type trimmer, hold them at a right angle to the nail with the tip of the

*("How To Trim Your Dog's Nails..." cont.)*

nail between the blades. Quickly squeeze the handles to close the scissors and cut the nail. If you're using a guillotine-type trimmer, insert the tip of your dog's nail into the hole, holding the trimmer perpendicular to the nail so that you cut from top to bottom, not side to side. When you've positioned the trimmer in the right place, squeeze the handles to cut through your dog's nail.

### Make sure not to cut into the quick of the nail.

If your dog has clear nails, you can see the live quick, which looks pink. Cut the nail no closer than about two millimeters from the quick. If your dog has dark nails, you can avoid cutting into the quick by trimming one little sliver of nail at a time, starting with the tip. Stop trimming when you see the oval. If you don't, you'll cut into the quick, causing pain and bleeding. Another option with black nails is to have an assistant use a flashlight to backlight each of your dog's nails while you trim. The light from behind the nail allows you to clearly see the pink quick.

### Trim your dog's nails regularly once you get the hang of it.

Most dogs do not like having their nails trimmed. It is inherently a good idea to get your dog used to having their paws handled at a young age if possible, or at any age by gentle handling and praise. Take things slowly. You don't have to do all the claws in one session. Good luck and it gets easier over time! ☐

## Dear Readers,

I am creating a "REVISED" edition of *The Encyclopedia of Helpful Hints and Trade Secrets*. It has been selling exceptionally well, and many of you are now requesting *even more* "trade secrets" than were originally included.

Since I am enlarging and expanding this handy reference book, **I am asking you to email me ([s.pacesetter@sheltie.com](mailto:s.pacesetter@sheltie.com)) any HELPFUL HINT which you like to share with other dog owners.**

*Thanking you in advance!*  
Nancy Lee





## Disaster Preparedness

— ASPCA

Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation. Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe, so the best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared. Here are simple steps you can follow now to make sure you're ready before the next disaster strikes:

### Step 1: Get a Rescue Alert Sticker

This easy-to-use sticker will let people know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers (we recommend placing it on or near your front door), and that it includes the types and number of pets in your home as well as the name and number of your veterinarian. If you must evacuate with your pets, and if time allows, write "EVACUATED" across the stickers. To get a free emergency pet alert sticker for your home, please fill out our online order form (<https://www.aspc.org/form/free-pet-safety-pack>) and allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Your local pet supply store may also sell similar stickers.

### Step 2: Arrange a Safe Haven

Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. Remember, if it isn't safe for you, it isn't safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. Note that not all shelters accept pets, so it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time:

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

### Step 3: Chose "Designated Caregivers"

This step will take considerable time and thought. When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence. He or she should be someone who is generally home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. This may work well with neighbors who have pets of their own—you may even swap responsibilities, depending upon who has accessibility.

When selecting a permanent caregiver, you'll need to consider other criteria. This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in the event that something should happen to you. When

(continued on next page)



## 4,157 Dogs Reported Dead From Rimadyl

by Dr. Andrew Jones

Modern medicine and modern medication can do some pretty amazing things. It can instantly deal with parasites, or give immediate comfort to a dog or cat in pain.

There is a but here...these conventional medications can have a host of side effects that can seriously harm your dog or cat. There are also the unquantifiable effects of chronic medication use on your pet's immune system or organ function, and how that may make them more likely to develop serious disease such as cancer.

Consider the FDA reports on this common anti-inflammatory drug, Rimadyl.

Cumulative Veterinary ADE Reports 1987 to January 22, 2014  
 Drug: CARPROFEN (RIMADYL)  
 Species: DOG

### DRUG: CARPROFEN

Species: DOG

Route of Administration: ORAL

Sign:	Number of Times Reported:
VOMITING	7,130
ANOREXIA	6,469
SGPT/ALT HI, BLD	5,584
ALK PHOS HI, BLD	5,304
DEPRESSION/LETHARGY	4,922
BILIRUBIN(TOT) HI, BLD	2,808
DIARRHEA	2,389
DEATH	2,332
BUN HI, BLD	2,233
CREATININE HI, BLD	1,937
DEATH(EUTHANIZED)	1,825
ANEMIA	1,636
ICTERUS, BODY	1,510
WBC HI, BLD	1,459
SGOT/AST HI, BLD	1,421
POLYDIPSIA	1,385

This NSAID ( non steroidal anti-inflammatory), has numerous reported and under-reported side effects, from permanent organ damage, to even death. It is in your pet's best interest to avoid this medication, and similar medications if possible.

Dr Andrew Jones, D.V.M.



("Disaster Preparedness" cont.)

selecting this "foster parent," consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a permanent caregiver, so he or she understands the responsibility of caring for your pet.

**Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits**

If you must evacuate your home in a crisis, plan for the worst-case scenario. Even if you think you may be gone for only a day, assume that you may not be allowed to return for several weeks. When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials. To minimize evacuation time, take these simple steps:

- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information. Your pet's ID tag should contain his name, telephone number and any urgent medical needs. Be sure to also write your pet's name, your name and contact information on your pet's carrier.

- The ASPCA recommends microchipping your pet as a more permanent form of identification. A microchip is implanted under the skin in the animal's shoulder area, and can be read by a scanner at most animal shelters.

- Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis.

- Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is, and that it is clearly labeled and easy to carry. Items to consider keeping in or near your "Evac-Pack" include:

- Pet first-aid kit and guide book (ask your vet what to include)
- 3-7 days' worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food (be sure to rotate every two months)
- Disposable litter trays (aluminum roasting pans are perfect)
- Litter or paper toweling
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags for clean-up
- Pet feeding dishes and water bowls
- Extra collar or harness as well as an extra leash
- Photocopies and/or USB of medical records and a waterproof container with a two-week supply of any medicine your pet requires. (Remember, food and medications need to be rotated out of your emergency kit—otherwise they may go bad or become useless)
- At least seven days' worth of bottled water for each person and pet (store in a cool, dry place and replace every two months)
- A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet
- Flashlight
- Blanket
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- Especially for cats: Pillowcase, toys, scoop-able litter
- Especially for dogs: Extra leash, toys and chew toys, a week's worth of cage liner

You should also have an emergency kit for the human members of the family. Items to include: Batteries, duct tape, flashlight, radio, multi-tool, tarp, rope, permanent marker, spray paint, baby wipes, protective clothing and footwear, extra cash, rescue whistle, important phone numbers, extra medication and copies of medical ↗

("Disaster Preparedness" cont.)

and insurance information.

**Step 5: Keep the ASPCA On-Hand at All Times**

The free ASPCA mobile application shows pet parents exactly what to do in case of a natural disaster. It also allows pet owners to store vital medical records and provides information on making life-saving decisions during natural disasters. With a few swipes, you can:

- Access critical advice on what to do with your pet before, during, and after a major storm—even if there's no data connectivity.
- Store and manage your pet's critical health records.
- Receive a personalized missing pet recovery kit, including step-by-step instructions on how to search for a lost animal in a variety of circumstances.
- Build a lost pet digital flyer that can be shared instantly on your social media channels.
- Get the latest and most relevant news about pets and animal welfare.

**Other Considerations**

Geographic Considerations: if you live in an area that is prone to certain natural disasters, such as tornadoes, earthquakes or floods, you should plan accordingly.

- Determine well in advance which rooms offer safe havens. These rooms should be clear of hazards such as windows, flying debris, etc.

- Choose easy-to-clean areas such as utility rooms, bathrooms and basements as safe zones

- Access to a supply of fresh water is particularly important. In areas that may lose electricity, fill up bathtubs and sinks ahead of time to ensure that you have access to water during a power outage or other crises.

- In the event of flooding, go to the highest location in your home or a room that has access to counters or high shelves where your animals can take shelter.

Visit <https://www.aspc.org/form/free-pet-safety-pack> for information regarding disaster preparedness for horses, birds, reptiles and other small animals. ☐

**Miracle Goat Milk Recipe For Failing Puppies:**

Add 1 can goats' milk to 1 can distilled water (I pour it in the empty can of goats' milk in order to include the thick stuff left at the bottom) and stir. Add 2 egg yolks (sifted through a flour sifter to remove *all* membranes so the puppies do not choke). Add 2 tablespoons white Karo syrup. If the pups are dehydrated you can replace water with clear Pedialyte (it keeps for a while, maybe a week). Heat a little at a time, as you CANNOT use it again after it has been heated. Give leftovers to the pups' dam, and it'll make her milk rich. I got this recipe years ago from Jane Hammett. I know there are updates all the time, and newer recipes, but THIS RECIPE WORKS! We love it, and never lose a puppy unless there is something wrong with the pup. This recipe has even saved tiny puppies that, in hindsight, were not to be saved (for other reasons other than size).  
— Tammy Brolin Alden ☐



## Three Ways to Make Raw Feeding More Affordable



by Kimberly Gauthier,  
Dog Nutrition Blogger for Keep the Tail Wagging

What attracted me to raw feeding was that it sounded simple, inexpensive, and was the answer to all of our dog's digestive issues, allergies, and joint pain. When I started my research, I quickly realized that raw feeding wasn't inexpensive; especially when you're raising several big dogs. Over the past few years, I've learned enough to allow me to feed four dogs a raw food diet without breaking the bank.

### 1. Choose Homemade Over Pre-made Raw

Whenever someone asks me how to get started with raw feeding, I recommend starting with a reputable pre-made raw brand, because you don't have to worry about ingredients, sourcing, and creating a balanced raw diet. Of course, you're going to pay premium for someone to do this for you.

If you have the storage space, you can buy meat and other ingredients in bulk when you find good deals.

### 2. Find a Local Raw Food Co-Op

I belong to a co-op that services Oregon and Washington pet owners. Not only can I order meat from local farms, I can order canned food, dry food, cat food, treats, supplements, toys, and other supplies. Most of my shopping is now conducted through our local co-op. As a member, I've been able to cut our shopping budget by 50%. The annual membership is less than \$50.

Find an updated list of US raw food co-ops at Keep the Tail Wagging.

### 3. Feed a Partial Raw Diet

This option isn't ideal, however, in my opinion - some raw is better than no raw.

When our dogs were transitioned to raw, I fed them pre-made raw in the morning and dry dog food in the evening. It worked out really well for our dogs and our budget. If you choose to go this route, don't mix the raw and dry dog food in the same meal as this can lead to stomach upset.

I started making our dogs' raw meals at home two years ago. At first, it was a lot of work, but once I developed a system, it became easy. If the cost of feeding raw is holding you back, know that it is possible to afford a raw diet for your dog.

About the Author: Kimberly Gauthier is the blogger behind Keep the Tail Wagging, a blog about raw feeding, dog supplements, and raising littermates. Kimberly finished her first e-book on raw feeding called *Raw Feeding from A to Z*. □

("Six Tips To Trim Your Cat's Nails..." cont.)

### 1. Get your cat used to your playing with his or her paws

It's important for you to simply play and/or stroke your cats' paws so your kitty can get used to your touching them. Sit down and place your kitty on your lap. Stroke your kitties' paws and go back to petting your cat. This is the first way to build trust and that touching paws equals petting.

### 2. Choose the correct cat trimmers

There are plenty of tools available to trim a cat's claws; use the one that works best for you and your pet. Whatever your tool of choice, be sure the blade remains sharp; the blunt pressure from dull blades may hurt an animal and cause a nail to split or bleed. Keep something to stop bleeding, such as styptic powder, cornstarch, or a dry bar of soap (to rub the bleeding nail across), nearby.

### 3. Approach your kitty slowly while 'hiding' your trimmers

If you approach your kitty with a sharp object in one hand while trying to grab his or her paw with the other, odds are you'll come up empty-handed. Some cats do well with no restraint at all, but most cats need to be held firmly but gently to make sure that no one gets hurt. Try taking your kitty in the crook of one arm while holding one paw with the other hand. Or, you can put your cat on your lap and start this way

### 4. Trim one paw at a time as fast as you can

Take your cat's paw in your hand and use your thumb and pointer finger to gently press down on the top and bottom of the paw on the joint just behind the claw. This will cause the claw to extend so you can quickly but carefully snip off the sharp tip and no more. Then, onto the next. Don't get too close to the pink part of the nail called "the quick" as cutting into this area will likely cause bleeding and pain.

### 5. You can get away with only cutting the front nails

It's common to only cut the front claws, but take a look at your kitty's rear claws just in case they've gotten too long or their sharp tips hurt you when your cat leaps on or off your lap. Since most cats fuss more about having their rear claws clipped, start with the front claws.

### 6. You might need more than one session to cut your cat's nails

If you aren't able to trim all ten nails at once, don't worry. Few cats can stay still for more than a few minutes, so take what you can get and then be on the lookout for the next opportunity to cut your cat's nails.

ALWAYS praise your cat with love and/or treats after a cutting session so your kitty can start associating the process as a good thing that gets rewarded. As always, practice makes perfect and the more you try to cut your kitty's nails, the easier it becomes for both of you.

If the process is too hard for you, you might need one more person to help. You can always have your veterinarian

(continued on next page)

## Six Tips to Cut Your Cat's Nails Quickly and Painlessly!



Our cats are inherently scratchers. They love to stretch, stick out those claws and scratch anything they can! We love to keep our furniture and skin intact, so it's important to trim your cat's nails every few weeks. If you start the process while your cats are young, it makes it much easier to maintain throughout adulthood.

The key is to take your time, bring treats and to trim your cat's nails right after he or she has woken up from a nap and is groggy. ↗

("Six Tips to Cut Your Cat's Nails..." cont.)

ian cut your cat's nails or you can also take your kitty to a professional groomer. Some cats don't mind getting their nails cut, while others just won't tolerate it. Either way, it is very important for your cat's health and your furniture to keep your cat's nails short. Good luck! ☐

### What You Should Do With Your Cat(s) When You Are Away?



If you have a cat and tend to travel frequently or just want to take a vacation, you will need to make sure your cat is cared for properly while you are away. Unlike dogs, cats, for the most part, don't like to be away from their known surroundings. Therefore, it's best to keep them at home where they feel comfortable. Then the next decision is how best to care for them while you are away.

#### Cats are usually okay on their own for two days

Cats are usually okay if you leave them alone for a day or two (tops) with a clean litter box, fresh food and water. If your cats only eat wet food, then you one day is the minimum to leave your kitty alone. If your trip is more than a day or so, there are various options for you and your kitty. And, of course, each cat is different and it's best to judge according to your kitty's temperament what suits them best.

#### Have a trusted neighbor or family member

##### look after your kitty

If you have a family member or a friend (or even neighbor) that can stop by on a daily basis, this is a great option as most cats like to stay home and not vary their routine. Cats are pretty self-sufficient, so all your friend or family member has to do is make sure that your cats have enough food, some water and they need to scoop out the 'droppings' from the litter box. And, of course, a little rub down and attention to your cat is also required. Hopefully, whoever is watching your cat has a pet so you can return the favor.

#### If you are going on a long vacation, a pet sitter is a great option

If you don't have a friend that can take care of your kitty or you are going on an extended vacation, there are many pet sitters who can take care of your cat. A pet sitter is a great alternative (although you do have to pay them) as they are trained to be with cats and know what your cat needs and/or any special care for your kitty. Get recommendations from friends and/or your veterinarian. If you do have a cat that needs medication of any sort, a pet sitter is the way to go. It is too much pressure for a friend or even family member to know how to give your kitties medication when you are away.

#### Make sure whoever watches your cat has your vet's number and emergency contacts

Make sure your pet sitter (or anyone who watches over your cat) is given all the emergency telephone numbers, just in case. ↗

("What You Should Do With Your Cat When You're Away" cont.)

Leave a number where he or she can reach you, and write down your veterinarian's telephone number and the nearest emergency hospital as well. Always better to be prepared.

#### If you can't find a pet sitter or neighbor, you can take your cat to a pet boarding facility

If you don't have any other option, try to locate a pet boarding facility where your cat will be housed away from dogs. A nice large confinement area is preferred. At a minimum, a litter box should be provided along with other essentials such as toys and food games to help keep your cat comfortable and occupied. A hiding place within the confinement area is also a good idea so your cat can have his privacy if he prefers.

Your cat will be okay when you go away as long as you have prepared to have him tended to. And you will certainly know when you get home if your kitty was well tended to and/or if they behaved appropriately by how your kitty looks and how he responds to you! ☐



## IS WET FOOD BETTER THAN DRY FOOD FOR YOUR CATS?

Some of our cats are very finicky eaters and will only eat a certain kind of food. Some cats like wet food better while others like dry food better. There are benefits of both wet and dry food, but if your cat is not a finicky eater, the choice is yours and your cats! So what's a cat owner to do?

#### What is the real difference between wet and dry food?

Both canned and dry foods are (if you buy a high quality food) nutritionally complete. The biggest difference between the two is moisture content with canned food having a much higher moisture content. Many cats do seem to find wet food more palatable and this can be especially important if you have a cat with a finicky appetite.

#### Wet food is beneficial as it has a higher water content

Due to its higher water content, wet or canned food can be of particular benefit for cats with kidney problems (it helps keep them better hydrated) or lower urinary tract disease (it helps produce more dilute urine that can alleviate or reduce the frequency of symptoms).

The higher water content may make it easier to put your kitty on a diet (if necessary) because most cans of cat food contain roughly the same number of calories as 1/4 to 1/3 cup of dry food, but in a larger volume of food, so the cat may feel fuller at meal time.

#### The benefits of dry food are the following:

##### Dry food is good for your cat's teeth

Dry kibble can be more convenient and many vets feel that dry food is better for a cat's teeth. However, dry food is not a substitute for dental care and most cats, regardless of whether they have eaten canned food or dry food, will need professional dental care at some point in their lives. (continued on last page)

The  
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and  
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This handy, one-of-a-kind encyclopedia contains over 2,000 helpful hints and trade secrets for owners of all dogs (show dogs and pets alike) in a single comprehensive book.

Compiled by Nancy Lee Cathcart (the creator, publisher and editor of an award-winning international dog fanciers' publication that spanned over 30 years), this invaluable guide contains amazing secrets and solutions from professionals in the dog-show world and from pet owners. Of the thousands of hints received, those included in this book were carefully selected to best represent the most helpful and informative solutions available. In addition, for 15 years this author owned, bred and showed consistently-winning dogs (breaking several breed records within the competitive world of dog shows), and her background proved invaluable in creating this detailed reference book.

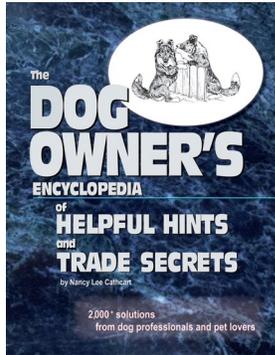
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*"Is Wet Food Better Than Dry Food...?"  
continued from page 5)*

**Dry food can be left out all day**

Dry food is also convenient for cat owners who leave their cats at home alone every day and want them to be able to graze during the day. Some cats that are not big eaters will nibble at it all day until they are full. However, if your cat is overweight or tends to eat a lot, only leave out a certain amount of dry food during the day so that he doesn't gorge when you aren't around!

**If you feed your cats' dry food, make sure that your kitty drinks water**

If you feed your cat dry food, he or she should drink at least one cup of water for every ten pounds of body weight daily. In warm weather, your cat will need even more. Cats on canned food diets only need to consume one-third to one-half that amount of water.

**Ultimately, wet or dry food**

**is up to you and your kitty**

The real decision should come down to your cat and your lifestyle. If your cat is happy with both, feed your kitty wet food in the morning and leave dry food out all day. If your cat only likes dry, then just make sure to have plenty of water for your cat due to the lack of water in the dry food. If you feed your cat a premium cat food, with very few additives and enough crude protein, he or she is likely to thrive whether the food is wet or dry. □

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