

# Nail Trimming for Cats

What tools and techniques are best for trimming your cat's nails?



## So your respected companion needs a nail trim?

Start with handling your cat's paws while not doing any trimming. This gives you a chance to get to know your cat's anatomy.

Cats have at least 18 claws that they use for hunting, self defence, climbing and kneading. Gently press the top and bottom of the pad simultaneously to express a nail.

The two positions that are ideal for trimming cat nails are 1) on a table- in a corner where there are few exits or 2) on your lap with the kitty's nails pointing away from you. We like the lap method when we are working alone. A towel can be used to "purrito" your kitty.

Once a well lit, comfortable location has been established, ensure you have all you require at hand including nail trimmers, treats, towel and styptic powder. Trim at the curve in the nail, at least 3mm before the quick. You may want to give treats in between trimming. Be gentle but confident.

If you cut the quick, do not panic. Stop any bleeding immediately by applying styptic powder with moderate pressure. The amount of time between nail trims varies for each pet. We typically recommend trimming every 4-8 weeks.



### Nail Trimmers

Choose nail trimmers that are quiet, sharp and smaller in size



### Styptic Powder

Styptic powder is a blood coagulant used for minor bleeding



### Treats

Reward your kitty!