

Trimming nails a problem for your dog?

Even if you don't intend on doing them yourself, it would be a lot easier if it weren't associated with fear.

How can we fix this? We begin by associating the nail clippers with something good.

NOTE: At each step, repeat as often as necessary until you see the dog is comfortable before moving to the next step.

Step 1

Reference the video: **How to begin:** <https://youtu.be/pk2b5iJMYeg>

1. Show the dog the clipper – give a treat
2. Give a treat – touch the nail with the clipper (repeat)
3. Touch the clipper to the nail – give a treat (repeat).

Step 2

Reference the video: **More progress:** <https://youtu.be/2YcKv6KccMc>

By taking your time and associating the clippers with high value rewards, your dog will begin to look forward to it!

1. Clip one nail – give one treat
2. Stop before the dog becomes too stressed
3. All four feet can be done in the course of several days or weeks – take your time.
4. Always end the session on a high note with lots of praise and treats

Step 3

Reference the video: **End result** <https://youtu.be/8B4LggndAXo>

After you've worked at your dog's own level of comfort, you can use food as a reward for completing the whole Paw-dicure.

Accepting nail trims probably won't happen in one session but with time and patience, this method builds trust and acceptance.

And the end result is having a dog that is comfortable with being handled, meaning less stress at the groomer or vet visits!.



TRAINING TIP

- Be sure to use treats of high value. (Kibble is not sufficient).
- If you have an adult helper, have them feed while you follow the steps.