



## Tips on How to Trim Your Cat's Nails

Cutting your cat's nails is often a stressful experience for everyone, but it doesn't have to be.

TICA partnered with our friends at Trupanion, medical insurance for the life of your pet, to understand the ins and outs of trimming feline nails. Here's what owners should be aware of when it comes to at-home claw trimming.

**Do you really need to trim a cat's claws?** Cat nails grow continuously. If not trimmed, they can become uncomfortable for the cat by curling back into their toe or paw pad. Long nails may also tear out and cause bleeding or other problems.

It's a good idea to consult with your pet's veterinarian before taking clippers to your cat's nails—especially if you have never trimmed cat nails before. Once you get the green light from your vet, follow these step-by-step tips to help you and your cat through the process.

**Use the proper tools.** Invest in pet nail clippers intended for use with felines. Make sure you're in a well-lit setting so you can clearly see your cat's paws.

**Acclimate your cat.** This can take up to a few weeks. Hold your cat on your lap and slowly touch and hold their paws, talking gently to keep them calm. Once they're relaxed, introduce the nail clippers, and let them smell them. Clip the air by the cat, allowing them to get used to the movement and noise. Be sure to use positive reinforcement throughout.

**Look for the quick.** Start with the front paws and gently press to extend the claws. The area that appears pink is called a "quick" and contains blood vessels and nerves. Be careful to avoid clipping the quick, as doing so can cause pain and bleeding.

**Trim the claws.** Trim the clear, quick-less portion and repeat on each claw until you're done. Don't forget the dewclaw—it is on the inside of each front leg, furthest back from the pad. Complete each paw, petting your cat in between and talking soothingly to them.

**Reward your cat.** You may want to give your cat a treat right after nail trimming to help keep the experience as positive as possible. Afterwards, give them some pets, then give them space to do their own thing.

**When to take your cat to a veterinarian.** Most veterinary hospitals provide cat nail trimming, which you may want to utilize if your cat keeps squirming away or you don't feel comfortable with the nail clippers. Always seek medical attention for your pet if you notice any abnormal changes with their paws or nails, such as swelling, paw sensitivity, or redness, or have other concerns, such as limping, excessive paw licking, claws growing into paw pads, or persistent bleeding.

**Trupanion, medical insurance for pets.** You never know when you may have to make an unplanned trip to the veterinarian. Trupanion is here to give you peace of mind by helping you budget for unexpected accidents and illnesses.

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kittens are protected when they head to their new homes. This program is completely free to join as a breeder, just [click here](#) to get started!

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