



ARKLE Veterinary Care, LLC
1020 Concord Rd., SE • Smyrna, GA 30080
Phone: (770) 435-6700 • Fax: (770) 434-4863
www.arklevetcare.com • arklevetcare@bellsouth.net

TRIMMING YOUR DOG'S NAILS

FILING NAILS:

To file your dog's nails, use a pet nail file, black emory board, or Dremel type pet nail grinder, like a PediPaws™. Hold the file or grinder on the bottom of the nail, parallel to the bottom of the paw pad and rub it over the nail 3-4 times (if using a grinder, a brief 1 second grind is adequate). Do the nails 3-4 times a week. Check the dewclaws ("thumbs") to see if they need filed as well.



CUTTING NAILS:

The nail should be cut from underneath, not from the top downward. Slide the opening over the end of the nail while staying in the whitish part of the nail. The pink area of the nail is the live part and has blood vessels throughout.



To cut the nail, be decisive and make a smooth, quick squeeze on the handle while holding the trimmer steady. Don't try to "pop" the end of the nail off; it will fall away on its own. If the nails are dark, trim small amounts away, until you see a small black dot in the center of the cut surface of the nail.

This nail has been cut about as far back as is possible without causing some bleeding. You can file the edges or just let the dog wear the nail smooth. If you accidentally cut the nail back until there is a slight amount of bleeding blot it with a tissue and press the cut surface into a small pile of Quickstop Powder (or cornstarch or flour) until the nail stops bleeding. Keep your pet off the paw for a few minutes to let the clot get stronger, or it may start bleeding again.



On the dark nails where you can't see any pink to know where the live part of the nail starts, you can check the end of the nail. The dead area usually is whitish and as you cut deeper into the end of the nail you will begin to see a dark area. This dark area is where the live part starts.