

Trimming dog nails

People tell me all the time how it is too hard to trim their dog's nails or their dog struggles because he does not like his paws touched. Dog nails should be trimmed every 4-6 weeks (it depends on how fast they grow and how much walking on cement they do). The rule of thumb for me is I do not want to hear them on the wood floor. Here is how I do it.

My first piece of advice is to get into a routine. This starts with you feeling comfortable with the process and picking a day and time each week to trim one nail until you and the dog are used to the event. You want to trim the nail as close to the quick as possible. If he bleeds he is not going to die. Grab baking powder or baking soda and place a small amount on a spoon. Then take the nail, wipe it and then press it into the baking soda. Then hold the dog for about two minutes creating a clot.



I agree there are dogs who just do not like their nails trimmed and no matter what you do, they will always struggle. A technique I use is laying the dog across my lap in a lock position. I will sit in this position for about a minute to allow the dog to settle in and then I start trimming. I have full control over the dog's movement and the dog is unable to bite at me with his teeth if that is his intentions. If he starts to struggle, pause and allow him to settle down. Stress is not good. Try it! It works.