

Nail-Trim Progress Log

Most dogs need a trim every 3–4 weeks, and nails that click on the floor are too long. **If your dog hates it, go slower instead of holding on harder:** tiny steps, a treat for every touch, and one nail at a time still counts as progress.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

DOG'S NAME

TRIM EVERY (WEEKS)

CLIPPER OR GRINDER

BUILD UP SLOWLY (1–2 MINUTE SESSIONS)

- 1 Touch, treat:** shoulder, then elbow, wrist, paw and toes, one tiny treat per touch.
- 2 Show the clippers,** treat; touch them to a paw, treat.
- 3 Practise the sound:** clip a straw or toothpick near your dog, then treat.
- 4 One sliver from one nail,** then a treat. That is a whole session.
- 5 Move on only when your dog is relaxed;** a few days a week is plenty.
- 6 Never force it.** For a very fearful dog, ask your vet about calming medication or light sedation.

HOW MUCH TO TAKE

Light nails

Stay 2–3 mm away from the pink quick and take 1–2 mm at a time.

Dark nails

Take the very tip only; stop when the cut surface shows a chalky white ring.

Dewclaws

Don't skip them: an untrimmed dewclaw can curl into the pad.

Grinder

Smooths the edge and lowers the risk of hitting the quick; keep long hair away from it.

If it bleeds

Styptic powder with gentle pressure (flour or cornstarch in a pinch).

Over time

Regular trims help the quick recede, so nails can be kept shorter.

TRIM LOG

DATE	STEP OR NAILS DONE	MOOD (1–5)	NEXT TIME

Stop and get help if your dog trembles, drools heavily, pants, growls or snaps. Call your vet if bleeding hasn't stopped after 5–10 minutes of pressure, or if a yelp is followed by limping or holding up a paw (a possible broken nail).

THE FULL VERSION: [DOG COOPERATIVE CARE GUIDE](#) · ON ETSY: [NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM](#)

Sources: American Kennel Club (how to trim nails safely); VCA Animal Hospitals (how to trim a dog's nails; nail trimming for dogs; first aid for broken nails). Dogs on soft ground may need a trim about every 3 weeks (VCA).