



How do I Trim My Cat's Nails?

Before trimming your cat's nails, get him used to having his paws handled and squeezed. Begin by gently petting the cat's legs and paws while giving him a treat, making this a pleasant experience. Gradually increase the pressure so that petting becomes squeezing, as you will need to do to extend the claw. Continue with the treats until your cat will tolerate this kind of touching and restraint. This may take longer with cats that have rarely had their legs or paws handled.



Your cat should be resting comfortably on your lap, the floor, or a table. There are several types of pet nail trimmers, but most Southside Animal Shelter foster parents and volunteers seem to prefer the scissor kind, over the guillotine kind.

Apply a small amount of pressure to the cat's paw, with your thumb on top of the paw and your index finger under the paw, until the claws are extended.



You should be able to see the pink or "quick", which is a small blood vessel. You DO NOT want to cut into the pink portion as it will bleed and be painful for the cat. If you cut off just the sharp tip of the claw, it will dull the nail and prevent extensive damage to household objects and to skin. The nails can be trimmed weekly. If your cat becomes impatient, take a break and try again later. Even if you can clip only a claw or two a day, eventually you'll complete the task. If your cat absolutely refuses to allow you to clip their claws, get help from your veterinarian or a professional groomer.

