

## STEP SIX

# Trimming The Nail

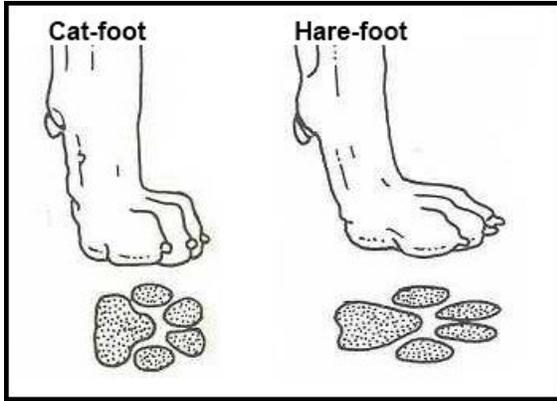
### **How often do I trim?**

This depends on what your overall goal is. If your dog's nails are overgrown, and the quick is very long, then you are going to be working to recede the quicks, which means you will need to trim every 2-3 days. If you are maintaining the current length, once a week tends to be sufficient. Any more time between trims, and your dog's quick is growing out. However, you can only dremel as fast as the nail grows. You can't trim if there isn't fresh growth, and you should never purposely quick your dog.

### **How short should I aim for?**

This group aims first for the dog's nails to be off the floor when standing still. Then, we aim for no ticking when walking given the reasons stated in the video in the pinned post. The length to achieve no ticking is HIGHLY dependent on foot conformation. There are dogs in this group that don't tick with quite long nails - nails that people outside this group would likely even think are long. There are also dogs that need nails that are quite short to achieve no ticking.

Dogs that have "cat feet" (pictured below) tend to need shorter nails to achieve no ticking. Common cat feet breeds are Doberman, Vizsla or Great Dane. "Hare feet" nails can grow longer before clicking because of the structure of the foot. Our culture has normalized long nails through pictures of dogs on dog food, treat bags and in commercials. **The maintained nails you will often see in our group are functional**, and they are not too short. Dog nails do serve a function, and even very short nails do their job when the dog is making quick turns or climbing. It is very rare that we see nails in our group that cross the line of being "too short". If you think something is too short, please report it to Admin (rather than make a rude comment), and we will address the post.



Cat feet examples with well-maintained nail length:



We would prefer that this group not get into the length debate. It comes up quite frequently and there's a lot of misinformation passed around which requires moderating effort to correct. Thanks!

### **How do I recede my dog's quicks?**

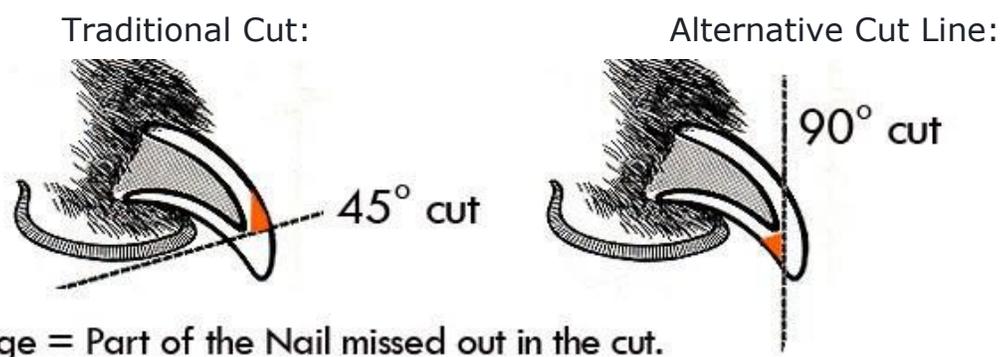
Slowly, consistently, and over time. It took time for them to grow out, and it will take time to recede them. Take pictures frequently to see progress. It will be a while before you are able to see progress with your own eyes. It takes months, or even years depending on starting length, to recede nails to our goal length. Be patient, and know that it is a marathon, not a sprint, to reach your goal. If you have a puppy, this is why nail maintenance is SO VERY IMPORTANT. You can avoid this hard work by properly maintaining their nails so that the quick never becomes overgrown.

### **Explaining the ACL and Quick Recession:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/files/>

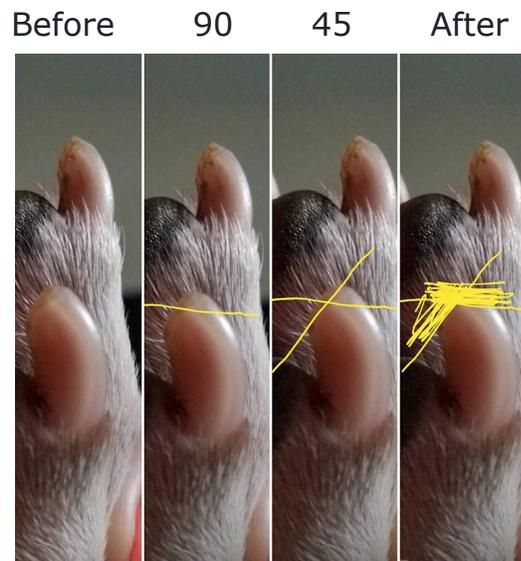
### **How do I trim?**

If you are using clippers, they are helpful at taking off nail length, but you will need to follow up with a Dremel or file to get close enough to the quick to encourage recession. Do not focus on taking off nail at the bottom of the nail, as that is where the nerves are located. Using the images below as a guide, plus your knowledge of the layers of the nail, focus on the sides and the tip in a horseshoe shape, similar to sharpening a pencil by hand, and you should end up with a bullet shaped nail.



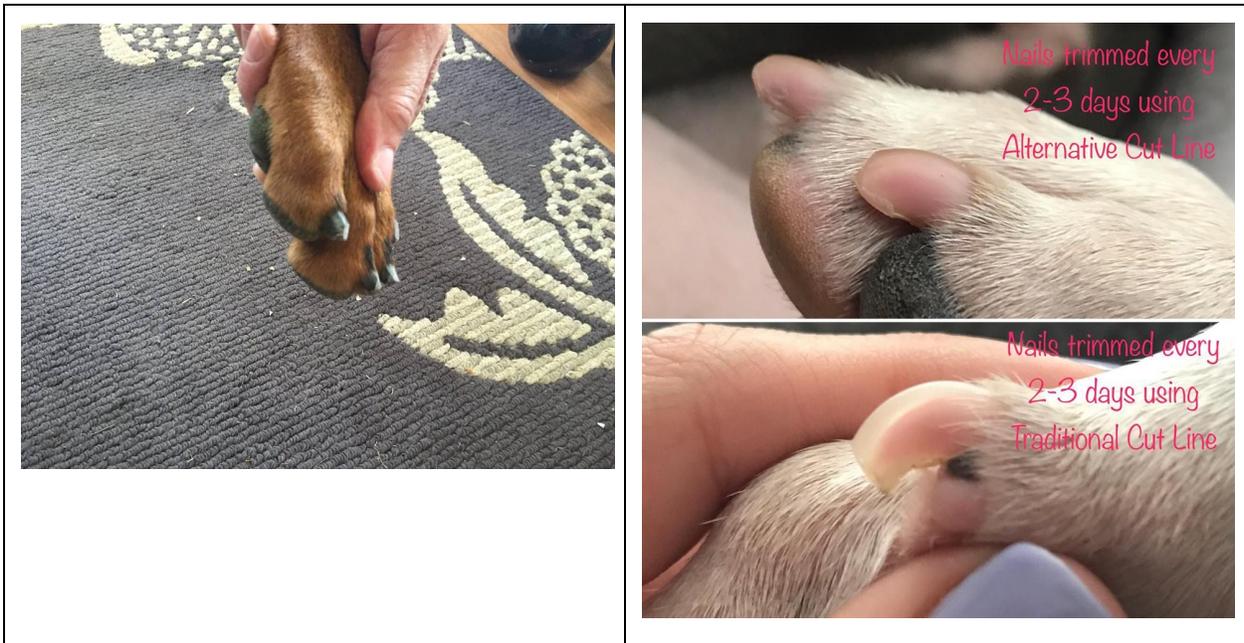
By doing a traditional cut line (the 45 degree one), the portion of the nail missed is the portion that must be taken off in order to get the dog's quicks to recede. The alternate cut line (the 90 degree cut) works to recede the quick, because you are doing BOTH cuts. The 45 to take length off, and the

90 to take the extra nail hood casing part off to make the quick believe it needs to recede to protect itself. The final product should be close to the quick, leaving the intact blood supply at the tip feeling unprotected, because you took the hood (its protection) off. In 2-3 days, you should have new growth around the quick, and look again like the nail on the left (below), allowing you to repeat the process.



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**Examples of nail trims using the traditional and ACL to recede the quicks:**



**What does a trim look like once my dog is properly conditioned and desensitized to trims?**

<p>Clippers (Sheena Neil):  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink">https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink</a></p>	<p>Dremel (Shana Deitrick - focusing on sides of nail and ACL):</p>	<p>File (Sheena Neil):  <a href="https://youtu.be/euMOi6zqQoo">https://youtu.be/euMOi6zqQoo</a></p>
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<p>Scratchboard (Front Feet), Sheena Neil:</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/594233060721628/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/ nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink /594233060721628/</a></p>	<p>Scratchboard (Back Feet), Christy Lyn:</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/1218766298268298/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/ nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink /1218766298268298/</a></p>
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