

## *Northern Illinois Cat Clinic*

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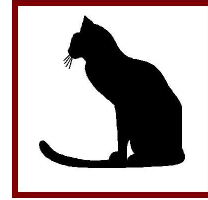
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### **Nail Trim Instructions**

- Use nail clippers approved for use in pets.
- Nail trimming may be easier for cats that are used to their paws being handled. Touching, gently massaging and handling during normal petting time will help your cat get used to handling his/her feet.
- When you first begin trimming nails you may want to trim 1-2 nails at a time to get your cat used to it. Follow with a treat.

1. With one hand, hold paw and gently squeeze toe (thumb on pad, index finger on top of toe) to extend the nail.
2. Locate the end of the "quick". You will see pink inside the nail that comes to a point. This is the end of blood and nerve supply inside the nail.
3. Place nail clippers around the nail, a small distance after the end of the quick.
4. Squeeze clippers firmly to cut the nail.
5. Continue these steps for each nail. NOTE: Front paws have 5 nails, back paws have 4 nails.

\*Be VERY careful to clip a short distance from the quick's end. Cutting too short, into the quick, can cause bleeding. There is a product called 'Quick Stop' that can be applied to the nail to stop bleeding, if you accidentally cut the nail too short. If Quick Stop is not readily available you can try using corn starch or flour to stop the bleeding.

Your cat may dislike his/her paws being handled, and try to get away. For your cat's own safety, you may try certain restraint techniques.

- Clip nails where your kitty is relaxed. This may be in your lap, your cat's bed, etc.
- If your cat tries to turn over or use back feet while you handle front feet, wrap your cat in a towel or blanket and pull the feet out of the wrap one at a time.
- Be sure to reward your cat with a treat when finished.

**To see a training video visit:**

**[www.felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu/index.shtml](http://www.felinevideos.vet.cornell.edu/index.shtml)**