

# Clipping your dog's nails.

If your dog gets lots of exercise on hard surfaces, he probably doesn't need to have his nails clipped very often. Urban dogs may need shorter nails than rural dogs.

Rural dogs use their nails to pull themselves up steep banks, across slippery rocks, and to keep their balance.



Puddle is a rural dog so I'll clip her nails but leave them long enough to do their job.

She doesn't like her paws being handled so I'm going to need some treats. We sit on the couch which is one of her favourite places, is comfortable for me and I'm in a good position to hold her paw.

Every time I pick up her paw she gets a treat. After half a dozen times, she gets it and is quite relaxed with her paw in my hand.

You will need a pair of clippers which come in two models. Guillotine clippers (left) and shears (right), which are like a small pair of secateurs. I am going to use guillotine clippers because they stay super sharp and make a faster cut.



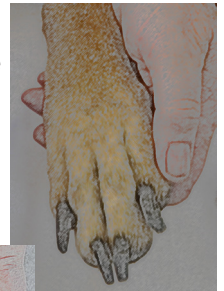
Dogs' nails contain a quick which is made up of blood vessels and nerve endings. It's the



red bit in the drawing below. It is vital that you don't cut into the quick — it will hurt and can bleed badly. It is better to leave the nails a little longer than to hurt the dog — he'll remember and next time he won't be so cooperative.



I'm holding Puddle's paw from below and she is quite relaxed. After fitting the **tip of the nail** into the mouth of the clipper, I quickly pull the handles together and the first one is done.



Now her nails are neat and tidy but still long enough for her to use them.

