



## Caring for their nails

Whilst in our care at KooeeKeis Australian Cobberdogs; puppy was introduced to nail trimming and grinding as part of the desensitising regime.

Maintain this routine weekly with your puppy. Keeping your puppy's nails short boosts your puppy's overall well-being; it's also an investment in your puppy's future.

Long nails force dogs to have poor posture, making them more prone to soft tissue and bone injuries, nail injuries, and arthritis.

1. Plan to trim and grind your puppy's nails at least weekly. Nails need to be trimmed when you can hear them tapping on the floor. Sometimes you may need to pretend you are trimming because they aren't long enough.
2. If you or your puppy is new to this process, don't expect to get through all of those nails in one sitting. Instead, plan to do a couple of nails or just one paw during a single session. For a more sensitive puppy, focus on trimming just one nail at a time.
3. Your dog has a blood supply in the nail called the "quick." Just like with us, you don't want to trim the nail back too far. It can hurt in the moment and might be sore later.
4. Your puppy should get TONS of treats and/or praise throughout this process, especially while their paws are being held, or touched with tools. If your puppy is pulling their paws away, stop trimming and go back to focusing on grooming and handling comfort.

**Do not struggle or restrain puppy to get compliance, it will make it worse and be an unforgettable bad experience for your puppy. Email us and we can provide more suggestions if you need help.**

**Have styptic powder on hand. Just in case you cut too close and the nail bleeds**



When using tools to trim your dog's nails, making quick and confident cuts is helpful for pups who are new to nail trimming, struggle to sit still, or are feeling nervous about the process.

If you're new to nail trimming, it can be overwhelming to get started. Here are a few tips to get you feeling comfortable and trimming like a pro in no time.

1. Always look at the parts you just cut or filed. If you see any pink, you went a little too far.
2. Choose a well-lit area.
3. Have a second human available to give treats and assist if needed.
4. Focus on taking off the roof and the sides of the nail, trimming or filing perpendicular to the ground. See pictures.
5. Your clippers should be sharp enough to remove just small slivers at a time. You're much more likely to make a mistake and trim too far if you're taking off large pieces. This is especially important when you can't see the quick from the outside, as with black nails or previously injured nails.
6. *Practice on macaroni noodles if this is a new skill for you.*

