



# Positive Puppy Nail Trims

Follow the 80% rule - only move to the next step when puppy is comfortable with current step at least 80% of the time 🐾



1

## Introduce leg and paw handling

Gently run hand from shoulder, down the leg towards the paws and give a treat. Note to always try to release the leg before puppy pulls away, and give a treat every time.



2

## Progress to the toes

Move on to toe handling - touch and separate each toe, then gently squeeze them, as well as gently touching, separating and squeezing each nail - reward frequently e.g. with each touch.



3

## Introduce nail clippers

Show them to puppy, allow them to sniff and investigate, give lots of treats in their presence. Cut pieces of raw spaghetti to mimic sound of clippers. Move clippers around paws and give treats.



4

## Gently touch the toes

Lift the paw and gently touch each nail with the clippers, treating after each touch. Slip the clippers over the nail, treat after each. Gently squeeze the clipper on each nail and reward.



5

## Cut the nail tips

Cut the tip of the nail and reinforce after each with a great treat (think cheese or roast chicken), or a favourite toy - a little game of tug or a gentle ball roll to create some fun!



6

## Use predictor cues

Predictability = confidence. Before each step, name it, e.g. 'paws', 'toes', 'nails', 'clippers', 'cut'. Once puppy knows the words for each step, their behaviour will tell you which bits they find hard.



7

## Take as much time as your puppy needs

Do one or two nails at a time, work up to a whole paw and eventually all the nails if comfortable. Lots of short, fun practice sessions - once or twice a day - will make for quicker progress.