

Achieve success with these top tips.

Go slow and be patient. While it can be very tempting to just “get it done” by force, turning nail trims into a wrestling match sets future nail trims up for failure. Claw care is not a one and done event; it is an ongoing part of cat care that lasts a lifetime. Kitties are more likely to struggle if nail trims are established as a stressful event instead of a positive experience.

Ask for a helping hand. It can be difficult to juggle trimmers, treats, and toes, especially when you are just getting started. Recruit a friend to be either the holder or the trimmer. The holder should support your kitty in a comfortable position and feed them tasty snacks while the trimmer trims the nails.

Offer the best snacks. Using high value food during nail trims helps to make it an event that your kitty looks forward to. Moist, stinky options tend to be favorites, but your cat’s opinion is what counts. Let them choose from a variety of snacks to find a few clear winners.

Add nail care to your bedtime routine. Cats tend to be more comfortable with handling when they are sleepy or feeling cozy. Take advantage when they are cuddling close, but be careful not to disturb them. Follow the guidelines for gentle handling and stop if they are too bothered.

Remember each low stress trim is a win. Even if you are not able to clip every claw every time, you are caring for your cat in the best way. By making their comfort count, you strengthen the bond that you share and show them that care can be a cooperative experience.

Now that you’re nailing it, what’s next?



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Explore the rest of our Nailing It series and find out what being Committed to Claws is all about.

Learn our top ten tips for creating the perfect **Scratching Sanctuary** in your home.



Setting Up For Success has never been easier, with our get started guide.

Cater to your cat by **Finding Motivations** that bring them to their scratching station.



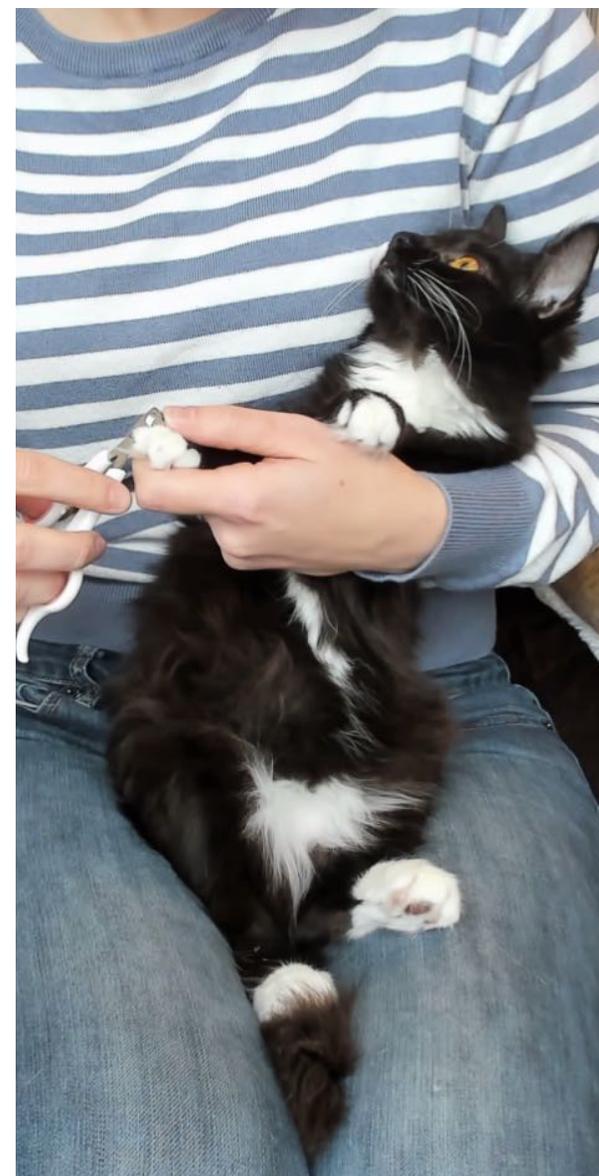
Convince your cat to **Scratch This, Not That** by offering them the right options.



For more information and scratching solutions, visit committedtoclaws.com

Nailing it!

Kitty nail care, without the stress.



Gather the right tools for the job.

Nail trimmers come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes, each with pros and cons. Try a few options to find the right fit for you and your kitty.

Human nail trimmers are a popular pick and you might already have a pair. This makes them convenient, but it is important to remember that they are designed for human nails. Kitty nails are uniquely hook shaped with a rounded shaft. Flat human trimmers may put uncomfortable pressure on the nail, even causing splintering. The long blade can also injure sensitive paw pads if not used carefully.



Scissor-style cat nail trimmers are a fantastic option. **They are the right size and shape to cut cat claws well.** The curved blade hugs the shaft of the claw for even pressure



during trimming. It is also easy to see where and what you are cutting, avoiding a painful pedicure.

Styptic powder helps if a nail is cut too short. In addition to stopping the bleeding, some have added ingredients for pain relief. Gently wipe away any blood, then apply a pinch of powder to the nail.

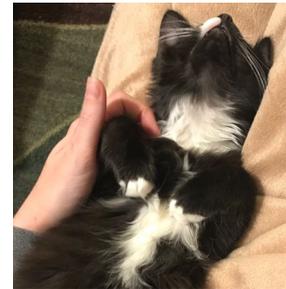


Make pedicures a positive experience for you and your cat.

Low stress nail trims are about building trust and making routine care an activity that is easy for both of you. Start slow, do not move on to the next step until your kitty is comfortable. Every cat is different; some will be so distracted by food that you can complete a nail trim in one try, others will require multiple sessions at each step before you succeed.

Step 1: Get cozy.

Find a comfortable position for you and your kitty that allows easy access to their feet. Avoid awkward angles or wrestling matches. Offer snacks or brushing to set the mood and keep them comfy.



Step 2: Touch those toes.

Gently handle your cat's feet. Start high on the body and work slowly towards the toes to make handling a welcome massage. Give a special treat just after you start touching so your kitty associates contact with extra good things. Touch a little longer each time, letting your cat pull away if they need a break.



This DIY snack-surface is a brush cleaner attached to a ring, smeared with tasty canned food. Get crafty and make your own snack solutions. Share your low-stress ideas with us on Instagram or Facebook!

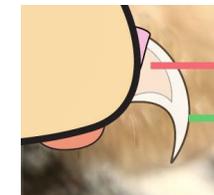
Step 3: Claws out.

Expose the nail by pressing on the pad while also carefully pulling back on the fluff covering the top of the claw. Keep the snacks coming! Practice keeping the claw out a little longer each time and take a look at the anatomy. In cats, it is easy to see the pink quick - the part of the nail that hurts if you cut it.

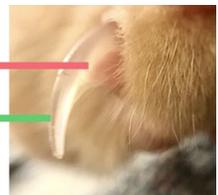


Step 4: Trim with care.

Keep your cat comfortable; be mindful of awkward angles and take breaks as needed. You do not have to trim every nail in one session. Clip the tip, not the quick! Trim the clear shaft, giving the pink quick plenty of room. It is better to take too little than to take too much and have an uncomfortable kitty.



quick
nail/claw



That's it, you are nailing it!

By taking one step at a time and building trust along the way, you can take the stress out of nail care.