

# DREMEL®

## Pet Nail Grooming Using a Dremel Rotary Tool

**Attention:** The maximum speed for this operation should be no greater than 15,000 RPM

We recommend that you only use approved accessories for this task, which are Dremel sanding drums 407 and 430 and the Dremel sanding bands 408, 431, 432, 438, 445, and 446.

### Why Use a Dremel Rotary Tool to Groom Pet Nails?

Of the reasons why people prefer to groom their pet's nails with a Dremel rotary tool, the main reason they do is for the pet's overall comfort. Scissors and guillotine-type clippers apply pressure and pinch the toenail, which can be very uncomfortable to pet toes and feet. Also, clipping toenails increases the likelihood of cutting the internal blood supply to the nail, called the quick. Because grinding is more gradual than clipping, it is easier to stop in time before reaching the quick. Should you nick the quick using a rotary tool, the cut is usually smaller, and will heal more quickly than a cut made with a nail clipper.

### Before you start

Grooming a pet's nails for the first time can be a worrisome experience for both the pet and the pet owner. Nail grooming does not have to be a stressful experience. By starting early and considering grooming to be part of your pet's training, your pet will become used having their nails groomed.

It is recommended that your pet should feel comfortable with you touching and handling their feet before you expose them to the rotary tool. One way to do this is to take time to manipulate their paws for a few minutes at least once daily. Giving your pet a snack that they enjoy is a good way to associate having their feet touched with a positive food-related experience.

The next step is to get the pet gradually accustomed to the rotary tool itself. Let the pet sniff the tool while it is turned off. Next while keeping the tool in your hand, turn the tool on and let him get used to the sound it makes. Try to get him to sit or lay on his side while the tool is in your hand and running.

Eventually, you need to work up to being able to touch the rotating sanding drum to the pet's toenails. Do no grinding at this time; simply let the animal become familiar with this new situation. You do not need to touch the tool to the nail for more than a second.

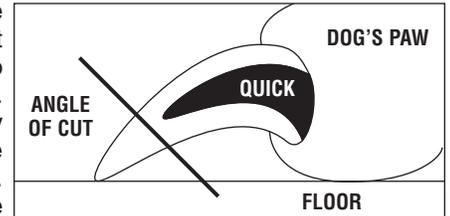
Throughout the entire acclimation process, continue to praise the pet and reward good behavior with his favorite snack. This process may take a couple of days or even weeks. Before long, both you and your pet will be able to relax and even enjoy this grooming time that you share together.

### Nail Anatomy

Before trimming pet nails you will need to be able to identify the quick. The diagram shows the basic anatomy of a dog's toenail. The outer nail is hard, and has no feeling because it has no nerve endings. The core of the nail is the quick. It is made up of tiny

blood vessels, nerve endings and is very sensitive. The quick is a vein that "feeds" the toenail. Should you cut the quick while trimming a nail, the nail will start to bleed.

Light colored nails are often transparent enough to allow you to see the quick's pink core. Dark colored nails may not allow you to see where the quick is. Sometimes, dog's have both light and dark colored nails that allow you to estimate the length of the quick.



The diagram also shows the ideal angle in which to trim a pet's nails. The proper angle may vary according to the pet owner's wishes or the pet's unique anatomy.

### The Nail Grooming Process

It is important to let the speed of the rotary tool do the work. You should never apply pressure to the toenail with the spinning sanding drum. Allow the speed of the sanding drum to remove the nail material without adding pressure. Pressure causes the nail to get too hot causing discomfort for your pet.

The rotary tool's spinning sanding drum should not be kept against the nail longer than three seconds at a time. It is recommended that you alternate between all the nails on two paws at a time. This rotation method allows the nails to cool before they are ground a second time.

Support the toe and nail in one hand while using the rotary tool in the other hand. This lessens the vibration of the grinding procedure and is more comfortable for your pet. Pushing gently on the bottom of the paw's pad extends the nail slightly for easier grooming.

### Pet Safety

Secure the pet. Some pets may become nervous in the presence of the tool. The operator needs both hands to groom the nail. It may be helpful to have another person assist in restraining the pet.

Keep pet hair away from spinning parts. Hair can entangle in the tool, causing injury to your pet.

### Safety Tips

Should hair be accidentally caught in the rotary tool, immediately turn off the tool and untangle the hair from the tool.

For pets with particularly long hair, use an old sock to cover the toe, foot and leg of the pet and isolate the nail. Push the nail out through a small opening at the tip of the sock to groom the nail.

Keep styptic powder on hand in case of bleeding. Styptic powder is available at most pet supply stores. Follow the directions on the packaging for proper use instructions.

**DREMEL®** P.O. Box 1468  
Racine, Wisconsin 53401

**1-800-437-3635**  
<http://www.dremel.com>