



Cat Claws: Know About Cutting Cat Nails, Scratching & More



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Your kitten's sharp little claws are amazing. They help her to balance on smooth and slippery surfaces, and give her a good, strong grip when she's climbing and holding on to things. So it's important that your kitten's claws stay in good condition.

Cats have been our most adorable friends over the last 12,000 years. And their popularity has never dipped ever since they clawed into our hearts with their undeniable awesomeness and charm. And speaking of cat claws, no cat parent, covered with scratch marks, has ever been spared the vicious love of their fluffy munchkins. Although cats have a long history of scratching their human parents, it would be rather unfair to assume that cats are unfriendly in nature. Cats are incredibly loving and playful and often tend to scratch their favourite human as a sign of social play and affection. However, not all cat parents particularly enjoy the idea of getting scratched by their feline friend's sharp claws, so here's a quick guide on how to treat your kitty and avoid getting roughed up.

What happens if my cat's nail gets too long?

One of the common questions faced by cat parents is how to cut cat nails. Furry felines have retractable claws on their cat paw, which are usually safely housed within their cute little paws. The ability to pull their claws back into their cat paws allows cats to walk almost noiselessly and avoid accidentally hurting themselves. However, their claws keep growing throughout their lifespan and grow in layers. If their nails grow too long, they often tend to curve inwards, hurting their paw pads. So, it is vital to get their claws trimmed at least once

every two months. Furthermore, the claws of cat are made of dead keratin cells, which often attract bacterial infestation if left to grow for too long.

How to cut your cat's nails?

Since the claws are usually housed within the paws, it is crucial to exercise proper caution and nail-trimming methods while cutting cat nails. Given below are some tips on how to cut cat nails:

- It is easier to trim a cat's nails when it is comfortable in your presence. While getting their nails trimmed might not be a pleasant experience for most fur kiddos, they will be more relaxed and tolerant when they are being treated by a person they love.
- It is also important to be aware of their personal boundaries. So, if you are planning to cut their nails, you can get started by holding their paws in your hand and gently massaging the paws to help them get accustomed to the process.
- Once your kitty feels relaxed, it is considerably easy to gently squeeze the tips of the paws to let their claws out without hurting them. Remember to put very little pressure on their paw pads to avoid stressing them out or hurting them.
- Cat's claws have two major sections, the thick part of the nail is usually white or grey, and composed of dead keratin cells. Toward the base of their toes, the nail goes pink where it attaches to the claw. This region, known as the quick, contains live blood vessels and nerve endings. So, if you are wondering how to cut cat nails, pay extra attention to avoid cutting into the quick as it can be quite painful for your kitty. It is also important to use cat nail clippers designed for cats to trim their nails, as nail clippers for humans have a wider edge and can easily cut into their delicate paws.

How often should you cut your cat's nails?

In addition to knowing how to cut nails for cats, it is also important to be aware of how frequently must you cut the cat's nails. Cat claws are naturally sharp as they are used to hunting for food and are their primary weapons against attacks from other predatory creatures, so declawing them takes away their ability to defend themselves. So, trim their nails only when they have grown considerably long, and pose a risk of hurting your kitty or bacterial growth. The claws of a cat grow throughout its life but should only be trimmed every two to three months.

Other things to consider for a healthy cat claw

In addition to knowing when to cut the cat's nails, you should make sure their claws stay healthy and functional by providing the following:

1. Scratching post

Cats, other than having to hunt their food, are often preyed upon by larger animals like dogs and coyotes. So, cat clawing helps cats to keep them sharpened for use in times of need. In addition, cat clawing also helps felines to get rid of dead skin cells under their paws which might otherwise accumulate, resulting in bacterial infections. Scratching also helps cats to mark their territories by depositing their scent. Commercially available cat scratching posts for cat claws are great additions to houses with cats as they help kitties keep their claws sharp without having to sharpen

them on doors and furniture. Scratching posts are also beneficial in keeping felines stimulated for hours.

2. **Soft paws**

As a cat parent, it is also okay if you are not confident about how to cut cat nails. Soft paws, also known as cat nail caps, are available in a range of appealing colours and designs. Easy and painless to apply, soft paws nail caps serve as sheathes to your furry buddy's claws, preventing accidental scratches. Soft paws can be conveniently used if you are unable to give your kitty a regular nail trim or are unsure about clipping cat nails.

Types of cat nail cutter

Mentioned below are some of the common types of cat nail cutters that make it easier for new cat parents to learn cutting cat nails:

1. **Scissors**

Scissors have an angled blade to help trim your furry little munchkin's claws without harming their delicate skin, making it easier for you to learn clipping cat nails.

2. **Grinders**

Grinders are electrically charged devices that can help smoothen out sharp claws with ease. Grinders are better to be used by experienced cat parents who are confident about their skills in how to get cat nails cut.

3. **Pliers**

Pliers are popular cat nail clippers scissors with small, sharp blades. They are easy to use and available in most pet shops.

4. **Guillotine**

Guillotine cat nail clippers are more popularly used by professional pet groomers and stylists, familiar with the process of cutting cat nails.

FAQ on Understanding your cat

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1. **Can you toilet-train a cat?**

Yes, it is possible to toilet-train your cat. With patience and by following the right methods, you can train your kitten to use the toilet and keep it clean too! But it might take a little longer than litter training.

2. **Do you have to train a cat to use the litter box?**

Yes, a cat needs to be trained to use the litter box. Generally, a kitten learns from its mother to pee and poop in the right place. But you too can train your cat by getting them used to the litter box.

3. **How can I train my cat to use the litter box?**

- Keep the litter box in a proper place
- Put enough litter in the litter
- Put the kitty in the box so that it gets accustomed to the litter box
- Try making changes to the litter box if the kitty doesn't use it

4. **How long does it take to train a cat to litter?**

Kittens have to be placed in the box many times for several days to get an idea of the litter box. It might take longer to train adult cats. On average, it takes around 4 weeks to train a cat to litter.

5. **What is the fastest way to litter train a cat?**

The fastest way to litter-train a cat is to start training it when it is still a baby. Kittens are quick learners and less fussy about their preferences. Use positive reinforcements such as treats and cuddles to train them easily.

6. **Is it cruel to keep cats indoors?**

Indoor cats often lack the freedom enjoyed by outdoor cats, which may cause them to feel irritated or upset. However, being indoors significantly eliminates the risks to their health. Just make sure to keep them stimulated, well fed and hydrated.

7. **Are outdoor cats happier than indoor cats?**

Outdoor cats have easy access to go on wonderful adventures and exercise their freedom. Hence their curiosity and sense of self are more prominent and satisfied. In comparison, indoor cats often feel restricted, causing them to be irritated or upset,

creating a stark difference when it comes to indoor vs outdoor cats.

8. Is it ok to have an indoor-outdoor cat?

Confused with indoor cats vs outdoor cats? It is natural for your indoor cat to want to go on outdoor adventures. It is okay to have an indoor cat who enjoys going outside but make sure that your kitty is regularly checked out for diseases and parasites.

9. Is it better to have an indoor or outdoor cat?

Indoor vs outdoor cats have their fair share of strengths and weaknesses. However, when it comes to the general health and life expectancy of cats, indoor fur babies tend to be healthier and live much longer than their outdoor counterparts.

10. Should I kitten-proof my balcony or window?

You can take steps like keeping cotton drapes and blind cords out of your fur baby's reach, keeping windows and balcony doors closed unless the kitten is being supervised, and ensuring that plants toxic to cats aren't within their reach.

11. How do I kitten-proof my home?

Some crucial first steps of kitten-proofing homes are:

- Keeping doors and windows locked
- Having protective covering on wires and vulnerable furniture like sofas
- Keeping small objects off the floor
- Never leaving food uncovered
- Using childproof latches on cabinets

12. Is kitten-proofing my house necessary?

If you are thinking of getting a kitten, definitely! You would want to create a safe cat house for your new furry friend and also protect your household goods and furniture from curious kitties. Kitten-proofing your home ensures both.

13. Do cats fake sleep?

Yes, they do. Cats fake sleep for a number of reasons such as when they are stressed or looking to get some pets from you.

Do cats care if you sleep with them?

Most cats love co-sleeping with their humans and they will happily snooze curled up beside you or on your lap.

15. Is a Cat Always in Deep Sleep?

Cats deep sleep for about 1/4th of their sleeping hours with the rest 3/4th dedicated to light sleeping or just snoozing. During light sleep, your furry friend is still resting, but in an alert state.

16. How many hours does a cat sleep in a week?

In general, cats sleep for around 13-16 hours per day, but this duration can extent to over 18 hours in some cats. So, how long do cats sleep in a week? Well, cats sleep a whopping 91 to more than 126 hours per week!

17. Do Cats Dream and Snore?

Yes, cats dream and snore. You will find your sleeping kitten twitching, moving their paws, making noises, and stretching. They can also snore when deeply asleep. Snoring is normal as long it's not accompanied by other problems like sneezing, nose or eye discharge, coughing, or appetite changes.

18. How do I calm my cat to cut its nails?

While most cats are tolerant of having their nails cut by someone they love, it is always a good idea to reward them with cat treats or shower them with affection, helping them calm down while you trim their nails.

19. Do cats get mad when you cut their nails?

Trimming nails can make cats uncomfortable and fussy. So, avoid cutting cat nails when they are playing or stressed. It is important to give your kitty a nail trim once it is relaxed and comfy, like right after their mealtimes.

20. What happens if you don't trim your cat's nails?

- Once it grows too long, your fur baby's nails can curve and grow into their soft paw pads, causing immense discomfort and pain. Failing to make sure to cut the cat's nails also significantly raises the risks of bacterial infection.
- 14.

21. **Is it necessary to trim a cat's claws?**

No, it is not always necessary to cut cat nails unless they have grown too long. Cats rely on their claws for multiple purposes like climbing and marking their territories, making it a significant limitation of cut cat's nails.

22. **Do cats realise their claws hurt?**

As kittens, felines are used to rough play which often includes playfully scratching and biting their loved ones. However, they do not always realise that their claws can hurt their favourite humans, however innocent and loving their intentions may be.

23. **Do cats remember their owners when alone for a few days?**

Cats are territorial and independent, but they are also incredibly affectionate and loving and miss their loved ones in their absence. So, you do not have to worry about your cat forgetting you when left alone for a few days.

24. **Can I leave my cat alone for a few days?**

While it is not recommended, you can leave your fur kiddo for 2-3 days alone at home without any supervision. Just make sure there are sufficient food, fresh water, and litter tray with enough litter available at their disposal.

25. **What can I do with my cat when I go away?**

To ensure your fur buddy stays healthy while you are away, you can opt for a cattery or cat-sitting service. Also, remember to take the necessary measures to make sure they are well-fed and hydrated while you are away.

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