The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy

HOW TO CLIP YOUR CATS NAILS FOR A GCCF SHOW

The GCCF Rules now require all cats attending GCCF Shows to have all the nails clipped on all four paws. The reason for this is to reduce the risk of injury to everyone handling cats on show day.

WHEN TO CLIP

The GCCF recommends that the nails are clipped 1-2 days before the show so they have a chance to round off before the day but not to regrow into a sharp state. Please **DO NOT** leave it until the morning on show day as both you and your cat are likely to be feeling more stressed. If your cats claws are found to be too long at vetting-in you will be asked to take the cat away and clip them and then return to the vetting-in queue. Vetting-in can be a bit stressful for both cats and owners so this is the worst time to have to clip claws and may result in your cat becoming upset for judging! Vets at vetting-in do not have time to clip claws as this would lead to lengthy delays in the vetting-in queue.

HOW TO CLIP

Nail clippers resembling a small pair of scissors are generally sold in pet shops but these can be a little difficult to use as it is not possible to see exactly where you are cutting the nail. Alternatively human toe nail clippers can be used. I prefer these as you can see exactly where you are making the cut. If you do use these take care to cut against the side of the nail and not from top to bottom as this may result in the nail splitting. (See Figs 2 and 3) You must also take care not to accidentally cut the pad beneath the claw when using this type of clipper. The fully grown nail. should be cut mid-way between the end of the quick and the tip (See Diagram 1). If the nail is only partly regrown ensure that you leave 2-3mm of nail between the quick and the point where you cut.

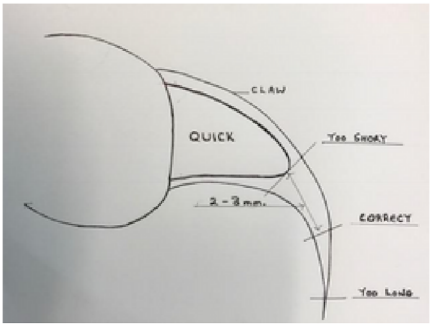

Diagram 1 – Where to Clip a Cat's Nail

If you cut the nail too short and go too close to the quick, it may make the nail bleed and it will be very painful for the cat who will probably be a lot less amenable to having the nails clipped next time you need to do it. (See Diagram 1) Alternatively if you only take the tip off at the end of the nail the cat will resharpen its nails very quickly (ie within 24 hours) and they will not be considered sufficiently short to be safe and you will be asked to take the cat away and clip then again at vetting-in. (See Diagram 1)

The following photographs (Figs 1-4) show exactly how to position and clip your cats' nail.

Fig 1. The long nail is protruded ready for clipping by applying gentle pressure to the nail bed

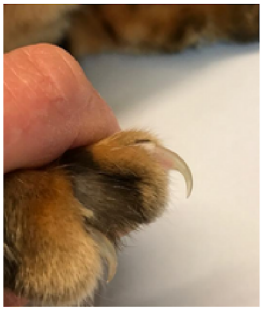

Fig 2. The clippers are positioned so that the cut will be made against the side of the nail and the lower edge of the clipper blades is well clear of the paw pad.

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Fig 3. The cut is made against the side of the nail 2-3mm from the end of the quick which is easy to see by it's red colour underneath the translucent nail covering it.

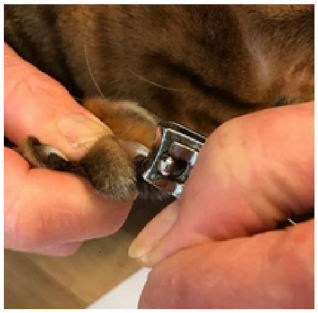
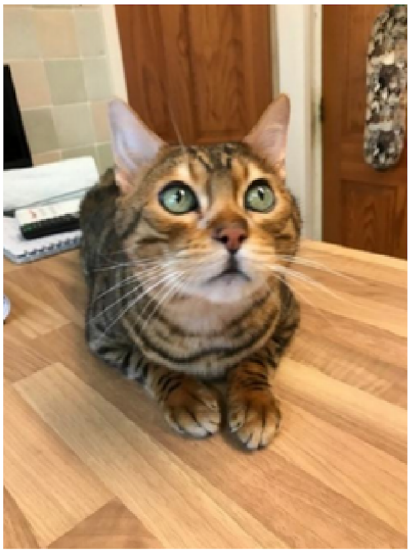


Fig 4. The correctly clipped nail showing 2-3mm of nail beyond the quick and a safe blunt tip.



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