

RUFF 'N' STUFF



Jan. '12

Here's is what a dog might write for their New Years Resolutions

10. Owner on floor, dog in bed.
9. Stop begging & just take the food off of the dinner table.
8. Chew up or bury every article of clothing they expect me to wear.
7. Introduce myself in more appropriate ways and stop invading their private space.
6. I'll stay out of the cat's litter box
5. I will recognize the difference between furniture and fire hydrants.
4. Find every bone I ever buried. No matter whose yard it is in.
3. I will try to ease up on the slobber. Well at least on the good furniture
2. Use the puppy dog eyes more, especially when I'm not getting my way.
1. I will socialize more. That means getting to my local dog park more.



Elgin County Kennel Dog Show

Date: Jan. 20th to 22nd

Time: 8am to 4pm

Admission: \$ 6.00

Location: Western Fair District

Over 100 different breeds plus vendors selling an assortment of canine supplies and accessories.

Did you know? A frightened dog will put its tail between h because it cuts off the scent glands in its anal region which very vulnerable part of the anatomy. Since the anal glands personal scents that identify the individual dogs, the tail betw the legs action is the dog's equivalent of insecure humans hiding their faces.



Dewclaws on Dogs

Dogs are a digitigrade species, meaning that they walk on their digits. A dog's paw has four digits that make contact with the ground and on almost every front paw and occasionally on the back ones, there is an inside digit higher up that does not make ground contact. This digit is the dewclaw. Most dogs have dewclaws on their front paws only, and it is rare to find them on their back paws. However in several breeds, such as the Great Pyrenees and Briards, rear dewclaws are common and included in the breed standard. The Great Pyrenees even has a double dewclaw, an inherited trait called polydactyly, so that there are two bony digits instead of one.



A dog's dewclaw is used as a grasping digit for different activities. A dog's dewclaw is useful for keeping a grasp on objects, such as a bone. A dog will also use its dewclaws to help the dog climb.

Some breeds require these dewclaws because they are believed to help them in their line of work.. The double dewclaws placed low on their rear legs act as functional digits to help them gain stability.

However, in other breeds of dogs that do have a rear dewclaw, it is often hanging loose and susceptible to being torn off. This is the main reason why it is sometimes recommended to remove the rear dewclaws

Most veterinarians prefer to remove dewclaws during the spay/neuter because the dog will already be under general anesthesia so it eliminates the risks associated with another anesthesia. Many dog owners often leave the front dewclaws for the reason that they are usually held close to the paw so need not be removed. However, this does not mean that they should be forgotten. They are easily missed due to their location and it doesn't help if the dog has long hair which covers it! Dewclaws should be trimmed during routine nail trims. This is especially important because these claws cannot be worn down due to the fact that they do not make ground contact. If left, the claw grows in a curly fashion, which may be uncomfortable or even painful because the claw may dig into the skin. It also makes trimming extremely difficult.

Whether you decide to keep or remove your dogs' dew claws, do your homework and talk to the professionals. Do what is best for your dog.

Tips for Cutting your Dog nails

- Use trimmers designed for pets. Ask your veterinarian or groomer for advice about what types of nail trimmers are best for your dog and how to use them properly.
- Start at the tip of the nail and snip a little at a time. Look at the cut edge of the nail. When you start to see pale pink tissue near the top of the cut edge, stop. You can use a nail file to smooth the edges further.
- Avoid cutting into the quick, which contains nerves and blood vessels. It is painful and will bleed easily. On white nails, the quick is the pink section. Be extra careful when cutting dark nails, because the quick is difficult to see.
- If the tip of the nail begins to bleed, apply pressure using styptic powder or a substitute such as baby powder or cotton.
- **Finish with a smile:** Always do something fun with the dog the moment the last nail is cut. I'll say, "Wanna go for a walk?" before the paw hits the ground, or I'll whip out a toy and go a few rounds. Though nail trims will be a bummer forever, promising some fun when we're done makes the process a lot less arduous.

